MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 NOVEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

North Lebanon Fighting — "Violent" fighting erupted early on 3 November when positions held by supporters of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat around Tripoli and the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps were first shelled, starting fires around the Tripoli oil refinery, and then attacked from surrounding Syrian and Fatah dissident positions, Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios reported. North Lebanon Voice of Palestine radio suddenly stopped transmitting early in the morning and Beirut radio subsequently reported that Fatah dissidents had seized the radio station.

Describing the situation in a telephone statement to Radio Monte Carlo, 'Arafat said the attackers were from Syrian, Libyan, PFLP-General Command, Syrian-backed As-Sa'iqah, and Fatah dissident forces, as well as Palestine Liberation Army-Hittin forces stationed in Syrian territory. 'Arafat reported initial attacks aimed at cutting the coast road between the two Palestinian camps and charged Syrian involvement, stating that he had "voice recordings" of all orders issued by the Syrian command which "led to this battle."

During the battle 'Arafat's forces managed to seize a ridge near Bibnin, but the dissidents occupied the Turbul mountain area, according to Radio Free Lebanon.

Other Developments — Speaking at a press conference in the Palestinian embassy in Moscow, reported by KUNA, acting PLO representative Rami Muhammad ash-Sha'ir affirmed that the USSR "respects and supports" the PLO under 'Arafat's leadership.

Lebanon

Geneva Conference — After unanimously approving a formula defining Lebanon's "identity," the conference discussed the Lebanese-Israeli agreement in a responsible manner "far removed from outbidding," Beirut radio reported. Proposals submitted by various parties included abrogation, revision, and a "freeze" of the accord, the radio said. The evening session of the conference lasted only 45 minutes because the conferees wanted to hold outside contacts on "a certain formula." Damascus radio reported that the conferees failed to agree on the issue, but Radio Monte Carlo said they agreed in principle with former President Sulayman Franjiyah's proposal to freeze the agreement. Voice of Lebanon radio likewise stated that the conference has formed a committee to draft an article concerning "suspension" of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

The conference formula for Lebanon's identity defines the country as a sovereign independent state of Arab affiliation and identity, according to Beirut radio. As a founding and active member of the Arab League, Lebanon is committed to the League's charters and should "embody the principles of the charters in all fields without exception," it added.

Proceedings at the evening session began after President Amin al-Jumayyil personally intervened to solve a "problem" between Sulayman Franjiyah and the Swiss guards at the hotel entrance, Beirut radio noted. Al-Jumayyil held a private meeting with the former president. Earlier, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt walked out of the morning session after an altercation with Phalange Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil, Radio Monte Carlo reported. In another development, Radio Free Lebanon said Swiss security authorities received information about a bomb threat but failed to detect any bombs on the premises.

Syrian, Egyptian Comment — A Damascus radio commentary warned against "misplaced optimism" that the conference will solve all of Lebanon's problems and urged the Lebanese to choose a "nationalist, Arab, and Syrian Lebanon" rather than an "Israeli" or "U.S." Lebanon. Describing Israel's threat to remain in southern Lebanon if the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is abrogated as unjustifiable, Cairo radio called on the Dialogue Conference to decide to renegotiate the accord. The United States, which has a "decisive" role in the issue, should take into account the objections to the accord raised by Syria and the Lebanese opposition leaders, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation — A military communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced that Iranian forces in the northern sector launched another offensive around Panjwin on 2-3 November. The communique reported attacks to the northwest and south of Panjwin in which over 700 Iraqis were killed or wounded. Subsequent reports from Tehran radio and IRNA stated that the Iranians achieved 90 percent of their objectives in the first hours of the operation, capturing several strategic heights, 10 villages, and a military post, but added that operations are continuing. An Iraqi airplane was also shot down, according to Tehran radio. In a statement to Voice of the Masses radio, an Iraqi spokesman confirmed an Iranian offensive around Panjwin, but stated that Iraqi forces were "confronting" the attack in order to "crush it."

In earlier action, another Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported that two Iraqi fighters were downed in the northern sector on 2 November. An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement to INA, "categorically denied" that any planes were downed.

Other Developments — Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz revealed in an interview with *Le Matin* quoted by INA that the five Super Etendard aircraft promised by France "arrived in Iraq last month, October." French Defense Minister Charles Hernu told a Paris press conference that the Super Entendards "have been where they should be for almost a month," AFP reported.

Omani Sultan Qabus told the Kuwait paper *As-Siyasah* that he doubts Iran will carry out its threats to close the Strait of Hormuz if its oil installations are attacked by Iraq, according to KUNA. Radio Monte Carlo cited Qabus as stating that, should Iran carry out its threat, he expects "U.S. intervention on the Grenada pattern" to keep the strait open, adding that U.S. forces would be given facilities on Omani territory in such an eventuality. Meanwhile, Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi stated that if Iran closes the strait the Gulf states "will discuss" the issue and "take joint action," the Bahrain newspaper *Gulf Daily News* reported. Al-'Awali also aluded to recent Iranian violations of Omani airspace, saying they were not serious but would be discussed with Gulf leaders at the next GCC summit.

Commenting on the recent Security Council resolution on ending the Gulf war, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi told Tehran radio that the resolution was intended mainly to rescue Iraq, which "is contrary to Iranian policies and interests," and to prepare the ground for superpower intervention in the region.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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'Arafat's Charges Syrian 'Offensive' Against Tripoli

JN031327 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, in Tripoli on 3 November by Radio Monte Carlo correspondents Kamal Arabay and George Nawfal — recorded]

[Text] [First reporter] What is the nature of the military situation at present, that is, this morning? How do you view the military situation in the north, particularly in the city of Tripoli and its environs?

['Arafat] The operation was begun at 0530 today by the Syrian forces together with the Libyan force which the Syrian forces brought from Al-Biqa'. It is well known that this Libyan force has been under the command of the Syrian operations room for a long time. Some units of the Palestine Liberation Army's Hittin forces, which are stationed in Syria under the Syrian command, and other Palestinian forces belonging to Ahmad Jibril, As-Sa'iqah, and the dissidents are also taking part in this offensive.

Our estimations shows that about 130-140 guns have been shelling the city. The shelling included the refinery, parts of which are burning. There is, of course, intensive and concentrated shelling of the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps. There was an attempt to advance — and it is still continuing — from ('Adwah) to Al-Minyah aimed at cutting the road between Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi. In the meantime, there was another offensive involving vehicles from Al-Haykaliyah, where the Syrian command is located, in the direction of 'Alma. The shelling is concentrated and a battle is now raging in this area. The shelling is continuing.

On this occasion I have voice recordings of all the orders issued by the Syrian command which led to this battle. I have said previously that there is an operations room comprising Brigadier General Sulayman, Colonel Ghazi Kan'an, a lieutenant colonel from the Libyan Army, Tariq al-Khadra, Ahmad Jibril, and Abu Musa [Aa'id Musa Muragha]. This is according to may latest information.

[Second reporter] Are the battles, or shelling, continuing at this moment?

['Arafat] At this moment the shelling in intense, particularly against the Turbul area, 'Alma, the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps, the Al-Minyah area, and the eastern part of the city.

[Second reporter] From your description, Abu 'Ammar, it seems the shelling is taking place on several axes and areas. Do you think that there is also an advance?

['Arafat] There is an advance.

[Second reporter] You consider then that today's attack is a comprehenisve one?

['Arafat] Advances are taking place on three axes.

[Second reporter] Do you think the attackers are trying to besiege the camps?

['Arafat] The direction of the offensive has now become clear. It is an offensive against 'Alma and from there in the direction of Turbul and the Al-Baddawi camp. The second direction is from ('Adwah) to Al-Minyah aimed at cutting the road between Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid and then swooping down to the Nahr al-Barid camp.

[Second reporter] As you have emphasized, the shelling also includes the city of Tripoli.

['Arafat] Including the port.

[Second reporter] The port too.

['Arafat] Some shells have fallen on the telephone exchange where the Syrian forces are stationed. It is the telephone exchange of the Syrian forces. Some civilians in the city have been killed and there is great destruction in the two camps.

Naturally, I want to tell all the Arab and friendly officials as well as those in the nonaligned states and others, according to the message I sent to them, that we will defend our people, revolution, the PLO, and the independence of our political decision — which our people have entrusted to us — with absolute manliness, honor, and faith.

I would like to recall a great Koranic verse: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged; and verily God is most powerful for their aid.

I call on all of the Arab leaders, kings, and presidents, and on the brothers, supporters, and friends to immediately interfere to stop this new massacre. From this position, I call on President Hafiz al-Asad. I appeal to him for the sake of everything sacred between us to stop this operation.

[Second reporter] Abu 'Ammar, recently Syria and some Palestinian leaders forecast this offensive and said that Abu 'Ammar must leave Tripoli so mediation can be arranged to solve what can be solved.

['Arafat] Well, let them open the gate of Damascus for me to get out.

[Second reporter] Recently, contacts were held and it has been reported ...

['Arafat interrupts] First, I would like to say that my coming to Tripoli is being proved useful. Nobody would condone my absence from my people and my forces which are facing dangers, threats, and aggression. This is because of my military honor, my duties, and my obligations as the PLO chairman and as the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. At least now I feel that I am sharing with them the same fate and the same aggression to which they are being exposed.

[Second reporter] Do you believe that the estrangement between you and President Hafiz al-Asad is now irrevocable?

['Arafat] I appeal to him not to make this Syria's decision. I would like to say something to our people and kinfolk: We are together marching until victory. The aggression will inevitably boomerang. Despite the fact that there are between 130-150 gun barrels directed at us now, I would like to say that we will triumph. God willing, we will meet in Jerusalem. This is a promise and a pledge. We will meet in Jerusalem.

AFP: Fighting Spreads

NC030802 Paris AFP in English 0753 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Tripoli, North Lebanon, Nov 3 (AFP) — Intense fighting broke out in several towns around Tripoli today between supporters and opponents of Yasir 'Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Tanks, heavy artillery and mobile multiple rocket launchers were being used in the fighting, which set off blazes throughout the region.

It came as the log-awaited Lebanese reconciliation conference struggled to find agreement in Geneva.

The official Lebanese radio said a huge fire was burning out of control at the main oil refinery in Tripoli itself.

The battlefield was continuing to widen early today, and included Tripoli, Zgharta, the hometown of former President Sulayman Franjiyah, the coast road and the area around Jabal Turbul area overlooking the city, reports said. Fighting also erupted around the Palestinian refugee camps of Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid, to the north of Tripoli.

The intensity of the battles forced residents who had remained in the region to flee into shelters within the center of Tripoli, which had not been hit by the shelling. Some residents, who had apparently been forewarned, had fled before today's fighting erupted.

A spokesman for the members of Mr. 'Arafat's faction within Fatah, the largest PLO member group, said the attack had been launched by the dissident PLO faction led by Abu Musa, which has Syrian backing, and the Syrian-led Palestine Liberation Army. The spokesman also charged that Syrian and Libyan troops were participating directly in the fighting.

There was no official indication as to whether Mr. 'Arafat, who has reportedly been besieged here for several weeks, was in immediate danger. But it appeared likely that the remnants of his faction within Fatah was facing an increasing threat from the dissidents, who have approached ever closer in recent weeks to his stronghold.

Beirut Radio Report

NC030847 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Ferocious battles are still going on in the areas of the clashes between the Palestinians in the north. Shells are falling on Tripoli. It has been noticed that Palestine radio, which is controlled by the 'Arafat forces, stopped transmitting at 0820 today.

The security situation erupted in the north at 0530 in a violent manner in the areas of Duhur Bibnin, Al-'Abdah, Turbul, and Bibnin. The scope of the clashes with all types of heavy and light weapons has expanded, and some shells fell in the As-Saqy area, Abu 'Ali circle, the Al-Mina' area, the At-Turab area, the At-Tall area, and on Al-Mutran Street where the Rafid building was hit, killing Muhammad Bulbul, 'Abdallah Haffar and his wife Huda Sultan, and an unidentified woman. There is also a number of killed and wounded who have not been identified yet.

A shell hit a fuel tank at the Tripoli refinery causing a huge fire. The smoke from this fire covered the area. The refinery fire brigade and the responsible authorities are working to extinguish the fire.

Our correspondent in the north reported a short while ago that another huge fire broke out in the Tripoli refinery installations. The fire brigades were able to bring the first fire under control.

Dissidents Reportedly Control VOP

NC030908 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] According to the latest information received from the north, the intensity of the clashes eased on the slopes of Jabal Turbul after the Fatah dissidents took control of the Palestine radio and the pro-'Arafat positions there. [North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic went off the air on its usual frequency of 1412 khz abruptly at 0617 GMT on 3 November without explanation. The station remained unheard as of 1200 GMT on 3 November.]

Meanwhile, fierce battles are continuing among the Palestinians on the other axes, particularly at the Nahr al-Barid camp axis.

VOP Said Still Broadcasting

JN031124 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] A few moments ago a Palestinian source in Tripoli emphasized that fierce battles are still raging and that an average of 70 shells per minute are being fired.

A Palestinian source stressed that the Voice of Palestine radio station is still transmitting its programs as usual. Earlier reports said that this station, located on the slopes of Jabal Turbul, had stopped its programs.

The shelling is now concentrated against Jabal Turbul from all axes. According to the same source, the number of civilian victims in the Palestinian camps is very large and the losses have not yet been calculated.

The joint command of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for

the Liberation of Palestine today condemned the battles now raging in northern Lebanon. In a telephone conversation with AFP, PFLP spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif, who is currently in the GDR, said: He who opens fire on a comrade in arms commits a crime against the Palestinian people and their cause and against the Arab struggle. Abu Sharif appealed to all the warring sides in the name of the two fronts to stop the bloodshed. He also called on the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories to exercise pressure in order to stop the battles.

Palestinian Communique Quoted

JN030925 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] A few moments ago we received the latest Palestinian communique, which was published by the Palestinian news agency WAFA. It says that grinding battles are still raging on the eastern and southeastern slopes of Jabal Turbul, where the Syrian forces sent a third tank battalion to reinforce their positions. Heavy shelling of Jabal Turbul, 'Aawkar, (Bus'if), and 'Alma is continuing. There is also intense shelling of the Tall an-Namlah area. Shells are still falling on the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi refugee camps. Fires are still raging in the oil storage tanks in Tripoli.

Syrians, Dissidents Tighten Seige

NC031132 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] The latest reports from the north indicate that the Syrian forces and the dissidents control the foot of the Turbul mountain and have dispatched armored units of the Palestine Liberation Army to tighten the noose around the Al-Baddawi camp.

The 'Alawites, who are positioned near Burkat al-Baddawi, are now launching an offensive on the approaches to the aforementioned camp.

Voice of Lebanon Report

NC031251 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] The latest reports from the north indicate that shells are falling at the rate of 100 per minute on the Al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps as well as on Tirpoli. The reports add that the Syrian forces managed to destroy Abu 'Ammar's positions in (Al-Muhmarrah), Mirkibta, and Duhur Bhannin. The Al-Baddawi camp is now besieged from three sides and is considered to have militarily fallen.

It has been difficult to count the casualties due to the ferocious battles, but initial information says that 150 have been killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, the fighting has entered a dangerous turn with the participation of the Islamic Unification Movement in the ongoing battles because this participation will render Tripoli subject to violent shelling since the movement's personnel are positioned in the town.

Further Details on Clashes

NC031343 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Dispatch by unidentified radio correspondent in northern Lebanon — recorded]

[Excerpts] The residents of Tripoli and some of the areas around the city woke up at 0500 today to the sound of artillery shelling and explosions. A violent battle began at the slopes of Jabal Turbul, which faces Al-Baddawi camp, between the Abu Musa Palestinian forces and the pro-'Arafat forces. Fierce battles continued until about 1030 when they gradually abated in the Jabal Turbul area along Sir-Tripoli road. Initial reports say that the Abu Musa forces were able to take control of several positions in that area, including the voice of Palestine radio, which stopped transmitting at 0820 today.

However, the latest reports say that attacks and counterattacks are taking place in the area occupied by the warring Palestinian parties, especially in the area of the Jabal Turbul, which faces Al-Baddawi camp. In view of conflicting reports about these clashes, it is difficult to give a clear picture about the results. This is also due to the intensity of the shelling and the ferocity of the battles.

Shells hit two fuel tanks at Tripoli refinery, setting them on fire. The refinery fire brigade in cooperation with the Tripoli fire brigade are working to extinguish the fires. This has resulted in a crisis in the supply of fuel to Tripoli and the north.

After 1030, battles continued at the western slope of Jabal Turbul, which faces the Al-Baddawi camp, where extremely violent battles are taking place. These Palestinian clashes led to the shelling of some Tripoli areas and streets, killing about 20 people and wounding more than 60 others. They were taken to the Tripoli, Zgharta, and Al-Batrun hospitals. Some shells fell on the outskirts of [name indistinct], 'Alma, and ('Ashash.) These clashes caused total paralysis in service businesses and in the streets of Tripoli, where all shops, institutions, schools, and universities closed. The citizens gathered outside bakeries and fuel stations. Traffic also became light in other northern areas.

Dissidents Blame 'Arafat Forces

JN031423 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] In Damascus today, a Fatah dissident spokesman accused forces loyal to 'Arafat of shelling the dissidents' positions since dawn today and attempting to advance toward them. He said a number of loyalist cadres announced today that they were joining the dissident forces.

Meanwhile, clashes continue to rage in northern Lebanon between the Fatah loyalists and dissidents. The clashes have expanded to include the Al-Kurah area south of Tripoli where

there are Syrian and dissident positions. Fierce clashes continue around the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps, which are being shelled at the rate of 20 shells every hour, according to the Lebanese radio.

Fatah Central Committee To Meet Within 48 Hours

NC022021 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee has decided to hold a minimeeting in the next 2 days on instructions from Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Palestinian revolution forces commander in chief. The committee will discuss recent political developments on the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Arab levels, and will examine the outcome of the efforts made by several parties to stop the deterioration in Palestinian-Syrian relations. The committee will aslo discuss the dangers that the siege imposed around Tripoli poses for the Palestinian national struggle.

A Palestinian source said that the Central Committee will define the necessary steps for holding the Fatah movement regional conference [mu'tamar al-aqalim liharakat fatah] preparatory to holding a general conference at the beginning of next year.

PLO Envoy Affirms Soviet Support for 'Arafat

LD021211 Kuwait KUNA in English 1057 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Moscow, Nov 2 (KUNA) — Acting PLO representative to the Soviet Union Rami Muhammad ash-Sha'ir affirmed Tuesday night that the Soviet Union "respects and supports the PLO and its current leadership under Chairman Yasir 'Arafat." At a press conference held at the Palestinian embassy in Moscow, Ash-Sha'ir condemned the Western media for shedding doubts on the Soviet Union's stand toward the PLO and its leadership which he described as aiming at "creating chaos within the ranks of the Arab progressive movements and the PLO." Ash-Sha'ir said the Soviet Union does not interfere in the internal affairs of others and "if the other countries were behaving like the Soviet Union, there would be no crisis within the PLO at the moment."

The Palestinian official charged that the current incidents in north Lebanon are aiming at "completing the American-Zionist scheme of striking the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement in order to entirely control Lebanon and directly threaten Syria, thus, creating a new crisis in the Middle East to overshadow the Palestinian problem."

Ash-Sha'ir who succeeded his late father as PLO representative here was referring to the current siege imposed by Syrian forces and Syrian-backed Palestinian breakaways of the forces loyal to 'Arafat in Tripoli.

"The Palestinian revolution under its current leadership is able to overcome its present crisis, and it is impossible to split the PLO or find another leadership for the Palestinian people," the Palestinian official declared.

Khalaf on Relations With Syria, Jordan

NC030846 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0525 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] In a statement to Algerian newspaper *El Moudjahid*, Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, said that the forthcoming Arab summit conference should discuss the differences between the Syrian and Iraqi regimes. He pointed out that the Arab situation will deteriorate further if the summit fails to reach a solution to these questions, because the PLO is being subjected to an attempt to impose an Arab custodianship on it.

Abu Iyad expressed his regret over the negative response [radd] made by President Hafiz al-Asad during his meeting with Brother Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member. The Syrian president was content to say that relations between Syria and Fatah are normal and that the real crisis exists on the PLO level.

Abu Iyad said that relations with Jordan are good but the dialogue has been broken.

'Arafat, Al-Wazir Comment on Current Events

NC021038 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday, for the third day in a row, inspected fighters' positions in the north. He was accompanied by Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief, and a number of military cadres.

Abu 'Ammar stopped at a position of the 17th forces and was briefed on their combat readiness to repulse any aggression against the Palestinian revolution's steadfastness, masses, and its independent decionmaking. At the position, Abu 'Ammar received a large number of journalists and radio, television, and news agency correspondents. He answered their questions, which covered important aspects of the developments the Palestinian issue and the Arab region are experiencing. He warned against the volcano that may sweep the area as a result of imperialist-Zionist interference and attempts to liquidate the Palestinian national cause.

Speaking about new developments in the Palestinian arena following the departure from Beirut, Abu 'Ammar said: Following the miracle of steadfastness in Beirut and our departure from there at the request of our Lebanese brothers, and the delusions cherished by Reagan and Begin that the departure would be the end of the PLO, we achieved a second miracle. We have reorganized and rebuilt our combat forces and repaired and expanded the PLO's infrastructure, installations, and establishments. Abu 'Ammar added: When they saw these two miracles they introduced the Trojan horse into the revolution's bastion in an attempt to destroy, control, and use the revolution as a tool to achieve their goal. We, however, tell them that as we succeeded in foiling the previous plots, we can foil this plot and the forthcoming conspiracies.

Abu 'Ammar stressed that unless the Palestinian people regain their rights and establish their independent state, there will be no stability, peace, or security in the Middle East. He affirmed that a volcano will engulf the entire area, which is not in the interest of the people of the world.

On the Israeli threats — should the 17 May agreement between Lebanon and Israel be abrogated — Abu 'Ammar said that the Palestinian revolution will place all its resources to fight on the side of the Syrian Arab people, the Syrian leadership, and the Syrian Army to defend Syria, the land of the Arabs. He stressed that the current differences are differences taking place in the same house.

Abu Jihad spoke to the newsmen. He affirmed that there is a U.S. plot and plan being implemented by agents aimed at dividing the Palestinian ranks and symbol. He said that Abu 'Ammar was chosen by the will of his Palestinian people and his stay is contingent upon this will. The Palestinian people will not allow anyone now to harm the revolution's independent decision-making. He wondered about [Syrian] interest in shelling the Palestinian camps and said: They are trying to separate the Palestinian revolution from its masses. The Israeli onslaught was stronger and more violent but failed to dissociate the masses from their revolution.

'Agents' Warned Against Selling Palestinian Land

JN021809 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1612 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] We have received the following from the occupied homeland's office: These days, the Zionist occupation organs are actively spreading agents, spies, and brokers who are using various methods to trick the owners of lands and real estate in the occupied homeland. These agents and brokers trying to purchase what they can within the framework of a well-planned conspiracy meant to legalize the occupation and to wrest the Palestinian land from its owners.

Reports from the occupied homeland mention that our masses are staunchly confronting this part of the conspiracy and are closing all doors in the face of the brokers and the agents, and that no significant response to this malicious conspiracy has been made. This is a natural and understandable stand by our great people, who enjoy a deep sense of national maturity and an unlimited loyalty to the land and the cause.

The Palestinian revolution command wishes to announce to all our people in the occupied homeland that it will punish this insignificant handful of brokers who have sold out their consciences to the enemy. The Palestinian revolution command warns this insignificant handful and calls on our great people to isolate them further and to purge the Palestinian house of their filth.

Palestinian land, which is being drenched with the blood of the martyrs and the sweat of the generations, will remain the property of its owners — Palestinian in heart, appearance, and destiny. This land has men who will protect its honor, safeguard its dignity, and keep it a pure Palestinian land. Revolution until victory!

Fedayeen Attack Israeli Patrol in Khan Yunis

NC030904 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0525 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] In Khan Yunis, Palestinian fedayeen attacked an Israeli military patrol with hand grenades, killing or injuring a number of enemy soldiers in two military vehicles. Reports say the attackers completely burned one vehicle and damaged the other and killed or injured no less than four soldiers. The occupation forces immediately sealed off the area and conducted a major combing operation in a search for the attackers.

PLO Delegation To Arrive in Beijing 3 November

LD022227 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] A PLO delegation headed by Brother 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, chairman of the department of popular organization, will arrive in Beijing tomorrow. The delegation will hold a series of talks with PRC officials concerning the situation in the Middle East and relations between China and the PLO.

Briefs

IDB Loan to Tunisia — An agreement was signed in Jidda today between the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] and Tunisia whereby the IDB will finance Tunisian imports worth $10 million. [Summary] [Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Nov 83 GF]

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Ministerial Council Concludes Meetings

GF021930 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1805 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] The GCC foreign affairs ministers concluded in Doha today their ninth session which paves the way for the convening of the GCC Supreme Council — which will be held on Monday. During the meeting final session, the agenda of the GCC summit was approved. The agenda includes a number of political issues dealing with the Iraqi-Iranian war in particular in addition to the Gulf and Arab situations in light of the current circumstances. The financial report of the GCC general secretariat was also approved.

Ministers Depart Doha

GF021940 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1925 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Doha, 2 Nov (WAKH) — After taking part in the meetings of the GCC Ministerial Council's ninth session which concluded in Doha earlier today, the GCC foreign ministers left Doha. They are: Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign affairs minister, and information minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, and Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

Upon departure, they were seen off by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs and 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, GCC secretary general.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Saudi Finance Minister

GF021036 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0758 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Manama, 2 Nov (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here today Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, who is currently visiting Manama. During the meeting, bilateral relations and means of strengthening them were reviewed. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs; Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, minister of finance and national economy; and 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Qadi, Saudi ambassador to Bahrain.

Finance Minister Departs

GF021550 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 2 Nov (WAKH) — Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl left Manama today after concluding a brief visit to Bahrain lasting several hours. Upon departure he was seen off by Bahraini Development and Industry Minister Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi and Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim.

KUWAIT

Foreign Office Official on Talk With U.S. Charge

LD021431 Kuwait KUNA in English 1253 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 2 (KUNA) — The Foreign Affairs Ministry Undersecretary Rashid ar-Rashid Wednesday received the American charge d'affaires to Kuwait Philip Griffin with whom he discussed the situation in the region and the issue before the current session of the United Nations General Assembly. Ar-Rashid also said that the meeting discussed the recent visit of the U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan to Kuwait and the topics he discussed.

The undersecretary added that the American envoy also asked about the outcome of the meetings of the joint borders technical committee which met here early this week between the Sultanate of Oman and Peoples' Democratic Yemen under the auspices of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. "We informed him (the American envoy) of the contents of the press statement released after the meeting which referred to the dialogue and discussions that went on and the results reached," Ar-Rashid said.

Diplomat on Foreign Minister's Visit to Syria

GF021600 Kuwait Al-Anba' in Arabic 1 Nov 83 p 1

[Muhammad Khalid Qatmah dispatch]

[Text] A high-ranking Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday that there has been a misinterpretation of what the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and information minister meant regarding the reasons for the postponement of his visit to the Syrian capital and during which he was to have met with President Hafiz al-Asad, in the presence of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The diplomat said that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad was asked whether he was going to leave for Syria on Sunday. The answer was that the brothers in Syria said they would be unable to hold the meeting on that day. The answer did not include setting another day, knowing that the Syrian leadership welcomed the visit of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to Damascus in order to meet with the Syrian president on Saturday or this Thursday. This coincided with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's preoccupation with the visit of the Zaire foreign minister on Saturday.

The official source did not want to say whether the two Gulf ministers will leave Qatar for the Syrian capital after the conclusion of the GCC Ministerial Council sessions which will begin today or if they intend to meet in one of the capitals before they leave for Damascus.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Editorial on Reagan's 'Threats'

GF311600 Kuwait Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm in Arabic 30 Oct 83 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Reagan, if He Reads History"]

[Excerpt] The French president has joined the U.S. President — usually the French are more politically aware — in announcing preparations to punish those who perpetrated the explosions at the Marine and the French forces headquarters in Beirut.

No one knows when this punishment will occur or the party against whom it will be carried out. However, the U.S. and French threats grow. In fact, the French president's joining the threats has deepened the conviction that the U.S. cowboy is really planning a retaliatory blow, which he claims will restore U.S. dignity and esteem.

If the Western leaders imagine their dignity can be restored in a brutal operation against Lebanese groups or areas or Arab forces, this is a mere illusion because the truth is that what the commandoes of the booby-trapped trucks did was in self-defense and was to counter blatant U.S. tranny against Lebanon and the Arabs.

In any event, the beginner is to blame and when he continues his tyranny, he follows this with successive blows; those who built the commando trucks can invent other means. Therefore, the means to restore U.S. dignity cannot be achieved by the aircraft carrier *Eisenhower* or its French counterpart *Clemenceau* or the battleship *New Jersey*.

In this light, the U.S. policy aimed at intimidating the region and the peoples is not practically seeking peace but is rather kindling fires and wars. Indeed, this policy will lead the region into another Vietnam. To Vietnamize the region is to involve peoples in fighting and in this kind of war no force in the world can conquer a fighting people. If the U.S. President imagines that the Lebanese and the Arabs can be eliminated, as his predecessors thought and as he did in his movie films with the red indians, he will discover, whether he will be deflected or not, that he needs further insight.

And if he assumes that his campaign, from Grenada to Lebanon and throughout Latin America, will succeed in subduing the peoples' aspirations for freedom and rights, he will also soon discover that the era of gunboat diplomacy has come to an end.

Interior Minister on GCC Security Accord

GF021020 Doha QNA in Arabic 0758 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Doha, 2 Nov (QNA) — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Nawwaf al-Ahmad has announced that his country has no reservations concerning the unified security agreement of the GCC states. He said that reports about such reservations are just a wish to [word indistinct] all the agreements with the constitution and effective laws in Kuwait and with the international agreements to which Kuwait is a party.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper *Ar-Rayah* published today, he said that the GCC summit had discussed the agreement at its previous meeting and decided to forward its recommendations to the experts committee for formulation.

The Kuwaiti interior minister hailed the achievements of the GCC in the various fields, especially in the unified security field. He said that the civil defense committee will submit field research and recommendations for the GCC interior ministers to endorse at their upcoming meeting.

OMAN

Qabus Interviewed on Hormuz, GCC Issues

GF021640 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus gave a comprehensive and important interview to the Kuwaiti daily *As-Siyasah*. The daily affirmed that the sultan of Oman had his own political ideas different from that of others during the seventies since political work needed a special skill. Storm winds were blowing from all sides and only skillful captains were able to guide their ships to secure ports. Sultan Qabus was one of these captains who remained in the conscience of the people of the Peninsula and the Gulf.

His majesty the sultan affirmed that the maneuvers held by the GCC armies recently help military coordination and link the armies of the region. He called for the variation of arms among the GCC armies and stated that it is important for the GCC armies to know each other, the weapons used in every army, and their effectiveness. After such good coordination, this force will be able to guarantee Gulf security against other countries.

Regarding the question of the Strait of Hormuz, his majesty affirmed that it is an international waterway and open to international navigation; this not only means oil but also other trade. Iran knows this. His majesty added that the closure of the strait has many repercussions that not only touch the territorial side but also other international issues. He affirmed that he doubts that Iran will close the strait.

Further Report

LD021251 Kuwait KUNA in English 1140 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 2 (KUNA) — Sultan Qabus of Oman was reported here Wednesday as saying he did not think that Iran would carry out threats to block the Straits of Hormuz if Iraq attacked Iranian oil installations. In an interview with the daily *As-Siyasah*, Qabus said that Iran knew that Hormuz was an international waterway, and its possible closure would have serious international repercussions. Therefore it would not close the straits, he said.

If, contrary to expectations, a closure did occur, Qabus said that GCC states would have to act rapidly at the political level. But "if a political solution is not possible, then only one option is open: military intervention."

Conceding that GCC armies were not capable of "maintaining

security" in the Gulf, he indicated that "if American interests necessitate interference in the Gulf, no-one will be able to prevent them from intervening, for this will be in the interest of the region and our allies."

Qabus defended his government against criticism levelled against its granting of concessions and facilities to the U.S., and commented that these concessions were "not unlimited" and stemmed from the "similar political views" held by him and America.

He expressed his optimism at the direction the GCC was going, adding that he welcomed Gulf investment but was concerned, for security reasons, about non-Gulf Arab citizens entering his country. The Iraq-Iran war, according to Qabus, was continuing because the Iranian Government had "brainwashed" Iranians into becoming "obedient instruments of war."

The sultan expressed his approval of the recent reestablishment of links between Oman and neighboring Democratic Yemen.

On the question of Palestine, Qabus regretted the breakdown of dialogue between the PLO and Jordanian King Husayn.

Minister: Gulf States Will Act if Strait Closed

GF030454 Manama Gulf Daily News in English 3-4 Nov 83 pp 1,2

[Excerpt] Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi said yesterday that Gulf states would take joint action if Iran carried out a threat to close the Strait of Hormuz.

He described the possible closure of the strait as "a national disaster," and said the Iranian action would lead to intervention by what he called various colonialist powers.

"Gulf states will discuss this issue and will take joint action if the strait is closed," he said without elaborating.

Iran has threatend to close the channel if Iraq disrupts Iranian oil shipments.

Al-'Alawi was speaking in Doha between sessions of a foreign ministers meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council in preparation for a council summit starting next Monday.

Referring to what he said were recent Iranian violations of Omani airspace, Al-'Alawi said they were not dangerous but would be discussed by Gulf leaders at the summit

"We have no indication that there are military build-ups as those which preceded the Iran-Iraq war, but there are troops facing us across the waterway," he added.

Al-'Alawi also said Oman's relations with South Yemen were proceeding on the right course.

The two countries established diplomatic relations last week after 16 years of hostility.

Entry Visas for GCC 'Vocationals' Canceled

GF312012 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1940 GMT 31 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Oct (WAKH) — It was announced here today that the condition for GCC vocational people to get visas to enter Oman has been canceled. An official source at the Omani Embassy in Kuwait said that vocationals include doctors, engineers, pharmacists, and lawyers, provided that their profession is listed on their passports.

PDRY

Industry Minister Returns From GDR

GF012002 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-Qadir Ba-Jamal, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of industry, returned to Aden from Berlin tonight after conveying a written message from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Comrade Erich Honecker, secretary general of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the GDR State Council. The message dealt with current developments in the international and Arab situation and bilateral relations.

SAUDI ARABIA

Sultan Urges Lebanese To Reach Agreement

JN022004 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Telepone dispatch by 'Abdallah ash-Shiri, Radio Monte Carlo's correspondent in Riyadh — recorded]

[Text] Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation in Saudi Arabia, today called on the Lebanese to find a solution to all their differences and to reach an agreement that will ensure the stability and security of fraternal Lebanon. Prince Sultan praised King Fahd's role in saving Lebanon, stressing that Saudi Arabia's sole aim from its efforts is to achieve the interests of Lebanon and the Lebanese.

Prince Sultan made these statements after an inspection tour of the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which is to be opened in 2 weeks.

Asked about current reports regarding the establishment of an Arab military industries organization, Prince Sultan said that studies on this subject are continuing and that the organization will be announced after they are completed.

Prince Bandar on Lebanon Talks in Geneva
PM021202 Paris Le Monde in French 30-31 Oct 83 pp 1,5

[Interview with Prince Bandar ibn Sultan Al Sa'ud, Ambassador to the United States, by Eric Rouleau in Washington — date not given]

[Text] Washington — Prince Bandar ibn Sultan Al Sa'ud does not look like a conventional Saudi and does not have the style of a conventional diplomat. The new Saudi ambasador to the United States, who is 34 years old, is a retired fighter pilot who has decided that he will be "the man of Israeli-Arab peace" in the Near East. Nicknamed the "Arab Kissinger," after carrying out a shuttle among Beirut, Damascus, Riyadh, and Washington for more than 3 weeks, he already has to his credit the conclusion of the cease-fire in Lebanon and the convening of the National Reconciliation Conference which is due to start in Geneva.

King Fahd's nephew, who is of athletic build, dresses in flannels and a sweater, speaks polished English mixed with American slang expressions, and has an affably frank manner which contrasts with the proud reserve which characterizes conversations with Beirut and Damascus. He had no hesitation in assuring the visiting journalist that the Geneva meeting has "good chances of producing practical results."

"All my conversations with the parties to the conflict," he stated, "lead me to think that it would be easy to reach an agreement. In my view, the people attending the conference ought to set up a government of national union without delay, leaving it to ad hoc commissions to settle disagreements, and draw up the vital institutional reforms.

"Such a procedure," Prince Bandar explained, "would have the twofold advantage of transforming the cease-fire into a stable civil peace in the next few days and making the presence of the Multinational Forces on Lebanese soil superfluous. I hope that all the leaders of the warring factions will agree to form part of that government."

Agreement on the essential points is within reach. "President Amin al-Jumayyil," he continued, "is a man of good will. He will say right from the first session of the conference that absolutely everything is negotiable. His adversaries have assured me that they will not call into question either the head of state's legitimacy, or the foundations of the Lebanese state — its Constitution and the (unwritten) 1943 national pact. Only slight amendments designed to ensure better intercommunity balance ould be discussed."

The Saudi mediator broadly outlined the content of the agreement on which, according to him, there will be unanimity. The head of state would be elected not by parliament but by universal suffrage. "He would thus be free from parties, factions, and feudal powers and would become the president of all the Lebanese, Muslims or Christians, whose interests and aspirations he will necessarily have to satisfy. In these conditions the opposition would agree to the supreme office being the Maronite community's prerogative. The Sunnis would keep the prime minister's post, and the Shi'ites the chairmanship of the Chamber of Deputies. The Druze will have the chairmanship of a senate which will be set up and would enjoy a higher proportion of the posts in the state administration."

"President al-Asad's Good Will"

Prince Bandar listed the disagreements which still exist on the allocation of the key posts at the head of the Interior, Defense, and Justice Ministries, at present held by Maronites, and he added with a smile that "the compromises reached will be portrayed as a victory by each side, in Lebanese style."

The only "major obstacle" to national reconciliation which Prince Bandar sees is that posed by the peace agreement concluded between Lebanon and Israel on 17 May — "an agreement which more than 50 percent of the Lebanese reject." The opposition parties and Syria do not want it at any price. However, he thinks that even if the obstacle could no be overcome in the near future it could at least be skirted. President al-Jumayyil, who has still not ratified it, could suggest that it be referred to a commission which would submit an amended text to parliament. "It would be a tragedy," he added, "if the Lebanese Government, under pressure from the United States and Israel, were to cling to an agreement which has no chance of being implemented since its implementation depends on a third party — Syria."

Question: Isn't Syria, pursuing inadmissible objectives, likely to hinder reconciliation among the Lebanese?

Prince Bandar's answer was categorical: "I know Syria and President al-Asad well. It is ridiculous to assert that the latter dreams of annexing part of Lebanon or maintaining tension for the USSR's benefit. There is nobody more anticommunist than we Saudis, and I can assure you that it is Syria which is using the USSR and not the reverse. President al-Asad has already shown his good will by subscribing to a cease-fire and the opening of negotiations, after first abandoning simple annulment of the 17 May Israeli-Lebanese agreement."

According to Prince Bandar, President al-Asad opposes only two aspects of the agreement: the link it establishes between the withdrawal of the Israeli army and that of the Syrian forces — a link which the Syrian head of state deems "humiliating" for an Arab country which sent in its troops at the Lebanese Government's request and not following "violent aggression"; and the political advantages which Israel derives from the agreement. "President al-Asad," Prince Bandar continued, "is willing to take into account the security of the Israeli borders, but he will not hear of any normalization between Tel Aviv and Beirut before the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier." The Saudi mediator thinks that it is necessary to find a compromise which is acceptable to Damascus because, he said, that would be the only way of consolidating national reconciliation in Lebanon and securing the withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country.

Prince Bandar is convinced that the Jerusalem government would be more flexible than the United States in this respect, because it is trying to break the deadlock situation in which its army is caught in southern Lebanon. "I am constantly urging our American friends not to be more Catholic than the pope," he continued. "After all, the 17 May agreement is not the holy Koran, and peace in Lebanon certainly deserves amendments

being considered. Unfortunately the United States does not understand the subtleties of Middle Eastern politics."

Israel, for its part, ought "to make a gesture" which would have a "considerable impact" on the Geneva negotiations, by announcing, for example, the withdrawal of its units from Sidon — "a Sunni city devoted to Lebanese nationalism." Such a gesture, he stressed, would not only contribute to intercommunity accord in Lebanon but would also make it possible to move on to the second phase of the "crucial mission" which he wishes to carry out: extending the negotiations to a "comprehensive and lasting settlement" in the region. "If only Israel chose peace rather than the annexation of territories, everything would become possible...," the Saudi prince murmured.

UN Delegate on Middle East Nuclear-Free Zone

LD020109 Riyadh SPA in English 1210 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] United Nations, Nov 2, SPA — The two super powers have a responsibility to support the United Nations and to safeguard the effectiveness of the Security Council, Fu'ad Faki of Saudi Arabia said here today. Speaking at a debate on disarmament questions of the political and security committee, he said the super powers had a special responsibility in the Middle East, whose security has been threatened for a decade. In this regard, he questioned whether peace could come to the Middle East without a solution to the Palestinian problem which would secure the rights of the Palestinian people.

"Saudi Arabia has supported the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East since the concept was first proposed the Middle East that possessed nuclear weapons and the means for their production. [sentence as received] As further evidence of its ineligibility for membership in the international community, it had attacked the Iraq nuclear research center. The Security Council, in condemning that attack, has noted that Israel had not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, while Iraq had done so," Faki said.

"All the states of the Middle East, which had welcomed the ideal, of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, realised that the creation of such a zone could not come about as long as Israel continued to refuse to abide by the international will, and insisted on terrorism as a means of conducting business. Thus Israel has over and over again proved that it was a threat to the security of the international community," he added.

Faki said states of the Middle East were convinced that the presence of nuclear weapons in the hands of Israel would pose a greater danger to peace in the region. "As long as the international community and the United Nations fail to assume their responsibility in preventing Israel from carrying out its terrorist policies, the states of the region will be forced to take the necessary measures to defend themselves," he added.

He said those countries which fed Israel with arms and money must realise that they were feeding international lawlessness in the most sensitive region of the world.

Iraqi Oil Minister Departs 2 November

LD021852 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1758 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Riyadh: 2 Nov (SPA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi left Riyadh this evening at the end of his 2-day visit to the Kingdom during which he handed His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz a message from the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He was seen off by the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Ahmad Zaki Yamani, and by a number of officials.

AL-JAZIRAH Likens Grenada to Afghanistan

PM021558 Riyadh Al-Jazirah in Arabic 28 Oct 83 p 2

[Jasir al-Jasir article: "Which Is More Evil Than the Other"]

[Text] *The Washington Post* attributes U.S. stands and actions since President Reagan came to power to Reagan's view of today's world, for he sees a world engaged in a deadly fight between the empires of good and evil. Reagan is quite convinced that he is the ruler of the empire of good and, therefore, he launches military operations in order to curb the tide of the empire of evil which is dominated, he believes, by the Soviet Union and whose every action is regulated by the USSR. For this reason all U.S. weapons and forces have been mobilized to fight the Soviets and contain their spread and expansion. Those observing the conflict between the two "empires" have noted that both are equally evil for the peoples, although the explanations given by their leaders to justify the behavior and actions by which they encroach on other peoples differ. While Reagan describes his Armed Forces' actions as being aimed at saving the peoples' lives and preserving free and democratic societies and regimes, and, therefore, claims that the invasion of Grenada is a "salvage" operation and not an invasion, the other empire of evil, the Soviet Union, gives moral attributes to its dirty operations in Afghanistan and Poland. It describes its invasion of Afghanistan as protection for progress and socialism in a country whose population abhors this repressive socialism which has starved the people and destroyed the economy of every country it entered. Intervention in Poland is said to be for the protection of the people against infiltration by Western imperialism, as if peoples are minors who need to be taught by the thinkers of the empire of evil how to live and what to accept or reject.

Today's world is dominated by two powers and, unfortunately, both are tyrannical powers whose actions are not governed by ethical or legal principles binding on everybody. The powerful ones understand only one law, the law of interests. Interests alone shape the plans on the basis of which invasions, wars, and confrontations are carried out. The allegations by the leaders of both empires regarding the protection of ethics and values and defending democracy and progress are all excuses designed to justify their actions by which they persecute peoples and occupy countries.

In what way does the invasion of Grenada differ from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan? The actions are the same and the invasion is one and the same, whether such invasion is against a small country like Grenada or a somewhat larger country like Afghanistan because, in the final analysis, invasion, whatever its

justifications may be, is an act of aggression and a violation against a sovereign state which a major power attacks with the foreknowledge that it is incapable of repelling the invasion.

Another significant point in the invasion of Grenada is U.S. exploitation of this small island to make other international quarters and similar countries understand that what has happened will similarly happen to those countries which are showing signs of mutiny and revolt against the "American emperor." The same fate is expected for El Salvador if the situation worsens and if the left takes control. Nicaragua is not too far off meeting the same fate. This is evident in the recent escalation of attacks by U.S.-backed groups.

Today's world has gone back to over a quarter of a century ago when gunboat diplomacy was dominant. In a world without controls and with nothing to curb the evils of both empires, all the small states should expect a similar fate to that of Grenada and Afghanistan.

Commentator Warns of Consequences of Gulf War

LD030058 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] Iraq has welcomed the UN Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire with Iran. The resolution also asserts the freedom of navigation in the Gulf region.

Iran's rejection of the Security Council resolution was expected in view of similar previous reactions and probably because Tehran believes that any cease-fire means a victory that the international community will attribute to Iraq. In the light of this odd concept, Iran's rigid atttitude that the waging of war for the sake of war is necessary by all measures is no longer meaningful.

The Iranian-Iraqi war, which has recently entered its fourth year, now constitutes a danger not just to the two warring parties; it now threatens the safety and security f the region. Perhaps the danger might go beyond the region of the conflict if developments lead to the intervention of outside forces, which, in turn, might lead to further complications that are difficult to control.

Despite the fact that Iraq had extended its hand and continues to do so far the sake of peace, based on the preservation of rights and on the fact that no party should feel that it has succeeded in imposing its will on the opposite party by force, despite all this Iran continues to reject peace and insists on continuing the war. Hence the last UN Security Council resolution calling on the two warring parties to agree to a cease-fire and to guarantee the safety of navigation routes in the Arabian Gulf may not constitute a definite commitment by the two warring parties, because it has come in a form of an nonbinding recommendation.

But this does not mean that the international community will continue to be a spectator to a war which one of the parties insists on continuing without presenting logical justifications for this odd insistance. This will result in the creation of serious conditions and implications if the matter should lead to powerful outside intervention.

Outside forces have begun to threaten that they will not tolerate consequences that might harm international interests. From this reality emerges the extent of the danger represented by the Iranian rigidness, which no longer has any justification and only causes further harm to both fraternal peoples — the Iraqis and the Iranians. Such a war will have no victor because of its nature and the circumstances surrounding it.

UAE

Foreign Minister Holds Press Conference in Qatar

GF021031 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0825 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Doha, 2 Nov (WAKH) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that the most important priority for his country is to act to eliminate differences among the Arab countries in the east and in the west. During a press conference at the Sheraton Hotel here this morning, Rashid 'Abdallah said that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan UAE president, hopes to eliminate these differences and that his efforts to do so have continued.

The UAE minister of state called on the Arab states to stand in one line to confront the threats that surround them. Rashid 'Abdallah denied reports that the GCC states have stopped their efforts to put an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said that the GCC initiative is still continuing and is still open and that "we are prepared at any time to exert our efforts and to continue what we started in the past."

He expressed regret over the split in the ranks of the Palestinian Fatah movement. He urged the brothers in arms to stand in one line to confront of the common enemy.

Answering a question on the possibility that Iran may close the Strait of Hormuz, Rashid 'Abdallah said that he does not expect Iran to do so because it is concerned about the security of the Gulf region and because it will itself be harmed by such an action. He also said that the responsibility for the Strait of Hormuz is not the responsibility of the Gulf states alone, but is an international responsibility because it is an international passage way through which all countries of the world are granted passage. Rashid 'Abdallah explained that through communication and dialogue it is possible to avoid such a step which benefits no state at all, neither Iran nor any other country in the region.

About the upcoming summit conference, the UAE minister said the next summit will not be convened unless all the Arab countries take part in it. He indicated that contacts are continuing in order to reconcile viewpoints and cleanse the Arab atmospheres prior to convening this summit so as to guarantee its success and accomplishment of the aspired goals. He added that if certain circumstances dictate, there will be no choice but to postpone the summit until the proper circumstances for its success are provided.

Answering a question on Egypt's return to Arab ranks, he said: "The role of the Arab Republic of Egypt is big and

important for bolstering and supporting Arab questions." He noted in this regard that essential developments have recently taken place in Egyptian policy concerning Egypt's relations with its Arab sister states. He expressed hope that this rapprochement will be in the interest of the Arab nation's questions and that Egypt will return to assume its natural position and share with its sisters the sorrows and destiny of the Arab nation and participate in bolstering the struggle and uniting the ranks of the Arab nation in confronting common threats.

About what has recently been disseminated concerning the formation of a Jordanian rapid deployment force for the Gulf region, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs said: "We have no information at all about this matter and it is not possible to foretell things that we have no information about."

Rashid 'Abdallah disclosed that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan will visit Iraq and Syria in the near future in order to resume his efforts to put an end to their dispute as a prelude to eliminating Arab differences prior to the Arab summit conference which is scheduled for next month in Riyadh.

About the military and security coordination among the GCC states, Rashid 'Abdallah explained that the GCC states don't seek to form a "joint command," but aim to build themselves in all defensive, military, and economic aspects. He added: "The GCC states also seek to cooperate among themselves in all fields through self-betterment of each of the Council's member states."

He described the Peninsula Shield maneuvers, which were held last month, as a concrete expression of military and security cooperation among the Council states. He indicated that one of the goals of these maneuvers was for the officials in charge of defense in the GCC states to meet through a practical demonstration of their natural right to self-defense and to elevate their fighting capabilities.

YAR

Libyan Envoy Departs After 2-day Visit

GF020953 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan foreign liaison secretary, left San'a' this evening following a 2-day visit to the Republic.

AL-AHRAM Reports Ghali's Views on Mideast

PM281542 Cairo Al-Ahram in Arabic 26 Oct 83 p 7

[Ahmad Nafi' article: "It Is Time for the United States To Move Toward a Comprehensive Middle East Settlement"]

[Text] The United States is reappraising its policies in the Middle East after realizing that these policies have become shaky, particularly since the United States became a captive of Israel's policy. Tel Aviv has succeeded in involving Washington in Lebanon in the hope of turning it into a direct military adversary of the Syrians and the Palestinians and with the aim of deflecting Reagan's initiative from its course so that Israel can complete the Judaization of the West Bank and Gaza. On the other hand the policies of the Arab countries have also become shaky because of the involvement of some of them in Lebanon's events and in the current conflict to polarize the PLO. Meanwhile the majority of the Arab countries have been helpless in influencing the course of events, contenting themselves with making statements about the need to clear the Arab atmosphere for joint action, as if such action will descend from the sky without those calling for it providing the means for its success.

If anything this situation proves that both the United States and the Arabs have overlooked the major fact that the Arab-Israeli conflict has generated the chain of destructive events that are racking the Middle East, the latest of which being Lebanon's tragedy which began with the Israeli invasion in June 1982 and the subsequent events. In other words, the failure to tackle the roots of the conflict will not solve the crisis in the area and, on the contrary, will lead to the total collapse of the situation as is gradually happening at present.

It was attributed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as saying, before the reappraisal, that the Lebanese crisis cannot be isolated from the bigger crisis (the Middle East) and that progress toward a peaceful solution in Lebanon will contribute to the bigger peace process, while setbacks in Lebanon would make the more comprehensive effort more difficult. The U.S. secretary of state has overlooked the fact that restoration of stability in Lebanon cannot be realized without making tangible progress toward the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the resolutions accepted by the world community. This is because the Lebanese crisis, let alone its ramifications, cannot be solved without taking the Palestinian presence into consideration. Consequently, the solution is linked to final settlement of the Middle East crisis. Also Syria and many Lebanese elements will not accept a permanent solution that will result in an Israeli role, including leaving southern Lebanon and the Golan in the hands of Israel. Thus it is evident that the future of Lebanon in one way or another remains linked to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Therefore, the reappraisal should not be confined to the U.S. side. The Arab side and the Palestinian side are strongly called upon to review their stands despite the difficulties involving the Palestinian action because of several conditions and factors.

It has been proved that events that occur in the area are the deciding factor in shaping U.S. policy in the Middle East and that unless the Arabs move positively and effectively and in a manner encompassing all aspects of the crisis, the results of Washington's reappraisal alone will not be enough to break the present deadlock in the efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive and just settlement in the area.

Thus, Arab, U.S., and international moves are urgently necessary in the area, according to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. He says: "Any postponment could only make the search for a solution more difficult. The succession of explosive events in the area are daily evidence of this fact. The successive wars, the latest being the invasion of Lebanon, the Sabra and Shatila massacres, and the ever growing chaos in Lebanon as well as the explosions whose victims were hundreds of the Multinational Force personnel could have been avoided if a way to solve the Palestinian problem was found."

In this regard the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs offers a "visualization" of the responsibility of all the parties in making the necessary move:

1. Egyptian diplomacy would welcome any U.S. move because it believes that the United States can play a role in pushing the situation toward a comprehensive settlement or overcoming the present deadlock that is threatening the Palestine problem. The explosions that caused the death of hundreds of U.S. Marines should be a motive for a political reappraisal of the situation.

2. Egypt believes that although President Reagan's initiative has some negative aspects, particularly concerning the question of Palestinian participation on the peace process and of the Palestinian people's right to establish a state of their own, yet it contains positive aspects that could be a suitable framework for negotiations and for all the parties to work within it.

However, this does not mean that Egypt objects to any other initiative. While Egypt is not monopolizing action for the settlement of the Palestine problem, it supports the Fes Arab peace plan and also gives support to the idea of convening an international conference to be attnded by all the parties concerned as proposed in President Ceausescu's plan. It also supports the Egyptian-French plan which is still on the Security Council agenda. The usefulness of this plan may become apparent in the future should an opportunity for peace be created. "But there is a great difference between support and implementation." [sentence as published]

3. Egypt hopes that a new round of talks will begin between the Palestinian side and the Jordanian side that will enable both sides to reach the desired results. These talks previously failed and were broken off on 10 April. "When new contacts reach an agreement between the two sides Egypt will then, without hesitation, take part in negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza."

Egypt believes that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian move is a primary requirement, for on it depends getting closer to opportunities for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace. Without agreement between both sides the United States will be unable to activate the initiative it insists on. Moreover, the inability of the Arab countries to break the present deadlock will make the Palestinian side in particular feel that the West Bank and Gaza are the real losers as a result of the passage of time and

of frustrating Reagan's plan. They are equally the losers because of the mutiny within Fatah against Yasir 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO.

But the question is: Is the PLO capable of making a positive move after what it has suffered? Dr Butrus Ghali replies: The present PLO leadership wil be capable of moving if it reaches the correct appraisal of the requirements of the present phase. Indeed the present conflicts within the organization could be a new motive for the resumption of negotiations with Jordan in order to reach an agreement that would break the deadlock and initiate negotiations for a settlement of the crisis. The minister of state for foreign affairs said: I do not wish to predict the outcome of events but I can say that the Palestinian leadership, regardless of the present disputes that are tearing it apart, will in the final analysis find that it has before it an opportunity to resume talks with Jordan and to sign what it could not sign before 10 April this year.

In this regard Dr Butrus Ghali reiterated Egypt's support for the PLO leadership represented by the Executive Committee headed by Yasir 'Arafat because it is the leadership that is elected by the majority of the Palestinian people. Egypt also supports without any doubt any party that accepts the principle of dialogue and tends toward negotiations, for it is only through these that the Palestine problem can be salvaged.

This point was bound to lead to raising the question of Syria, which evidently wants to dominate the PLO in order to achieve two principal objectives at the same time: The inclusion of the question of the Golan in the final settlement of the crisis through an international conference in accordance with the Soviet plan, and ensuring a role for Syria that would achieve for it its security interests in Lebanon. In this regard the minister of state for foreign affairs explained:

First, Egypt supports negotiations for the restoration of the occupied Golan in accordance with the UN resolution and with the precedent that occurred with Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

Second, Egypt supports the independent Palestinian decision-making, for this will consolidate the position of Syria itself in view of the atmosphere conducive to the spirit of peace through dialogue which a correct Palestinian action would generate.

Third, realism requires that everybody should work within the framework of Reagan's initiative which concerns the parties that were on the Palestinian territory before June 1967. The West Bank was a trust in Jordan's hand and Gaza sector was under Egyptian administration. Therefore, negotiations for Palestinian autonomy are at this stage restricted to Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian side, and Israel in addition to the American partner in the peace process.

The holding of five-sided negotiations on the Palestine problem does not preclude the holding of parallel negotiations on the Golan question. At a later stage and after progress is achieved by laying down a framework of action or by the creation of a Palestinian entity, the scope of negotiations could be widened so as to include others.

"Reagan's initiative or the autonomy negotiations are only interim negotiations aimed at saving the West Bank, and Gaza sector from the policy of settlement or annexation. Consequently, these negotiations do not require the presence of all the Arab parties because it is not their aim to find a comprehensive settlement."

"Also this does not mean," Dr Butrus Ghali asserts, "that Egypt is not ready to accept any other plan. This is evident in the fact that the Egyptian delegation to the recent Geneva conference in support of the Palestinian people's struggle accepted in principle the idea of an international conference. But political realism make such a conference difficult to achieve in the near future in view of the difficulties involving the preparations for it. Meanwhile Egypt believes that the plan that has the chance to achieve some of the objectives, even if they may be partial, up to now is still Reagan's plan."

No mention of Reagan's initiative can be made without admitting that the United States seems to be unable or unwilling to make a move at present to deal with the Palestine problem. Indeed the situation required the United States to firmly follow up its plan by utilizing the means of influence in the area in order to achieve an urgent objective which should not be relegated because of the concentration on Lebanon's problem. In this regard Dr Butrus Ghali says: In fact, the U.S. inability to move was due to the fact that from the start it was faced with a Palestinian rejection, a Jordanian rejection, an Arab rejection, and not a final rejection by Israel which wanted to hinder the U.S. plan. We are certain that any positive move, particularly by the Palestinian and Jordanian sides, will encourage the American side to move and will open a wide door to tackling the Middle East problems and the hope of solving them, beginning with the Palestine problem.

Dr Ghali added that it is in the interest of all the Arabs that negotiations on the basis of Reagan's plan or on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Sector should begin now because if we leave the Palestinian problem to be solved after the Lebanese crisis is solved then the principal problem will be delayed for years and could end with Israel's annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. He said that there should be a dual action; one body should be working for solving the Lebanese crisis and another simultaneously working for solving the Palestine problem.

The Egyptian minister defends the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking on the grounds that the key to the situation is in the hands of Jordan and the PLO. Jordan will not hesitate to play its role if it finds a Palestinian response which will no doubt be backed by the approval of the great majority of the Arab countries which at the Fes summit accepted the principle of dialogue and of the right of all countries of the area, including Israel and the Palestinian state, to security within their borders with a Security Council guarantee.

The minster also explained that the much discussed improvement of relations between Egypt and several Arab countries should be put within its proper context. There is no contradiction between Egypt continuing its work for the Palestine problem and the resumption of official Arab relations, since there is absolutely no disagreement between Cairo and any of the Arab capitals over

the desired goal, the full restoration of Palestine rights and the regaining of all Arab territories occupied since 1967. The minister also said that Egypt is prepared to respond to any invitation that would lead to the restoration of Arab solidarity provided that such an invitation is unconditional.

Dr Butrus Ghali said that the appointment of Mr Robert MacFarlane as national security adviser makes it incumbent upon the United States to appoint a new envoy to the Middle East. If it chooses a personality with political weight and familiar with the aspects of the Middle East problem and the Lebanese problem, then this would give momentum to the U.S. move and make it possible to revive Reagan's initiative. He added: The tragic incidents whose victims were hundreds of U.S. troops who were serving peace and preserving the integrity and independence of Lebanon within the Multinational Force will be a new motive for the U.S. Administration to give greater attention and devote further efforts in order to find a solution for the major problem.

Source Reacts to Report on Arms Shipment to PLO

NC021450 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA) — A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has affirmed that Egypt does not interfere in PLO affairs. Answering a question on a report put out by news agencies and some radio stations that Egypt had sent a ship carrying weapons to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the source said that what happens within the PLO is a purely domestic matter that concerns the PLO alone.

Cairo Commentary on Israeli Presence in S. Lebanon

NC021522 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Commentary by 'Abd al-'Azim Hammad]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has threatened to keep his forces in Lebanon if the Beirut Government should abrogate the Lebanese-Israeli accord. This threat can be interpreted as Israeli pressure on the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference. This pressure aims at strengthening the negotiating position of the Maronite front which does not conceal its desire to keep this accord.

The Maronite front lends some logic to its eagerness on the accord when it says that the accord aims at pulling out the Israeli forces and therefore must not be abrogated before an alternative is found. However, the stand of the Lebanese Maronite front in favor of the accord with Israel is also due to its belief that if Israel were given a role in Lebanon, the front will stand to gain, because this will help it to keep the upper hand in the face of the support given to the Lebanese opposition.

Through this threat, Shamir imagines that he supplies the Maronite leader with an invincible argument vis-a-vis the opposition leaders. The truth is that Israel and the Maronite leaders are deliberately trying to put the cart before the horse because, in reality, the Lebanese opposition does not aim at perpetuating the Israeli occupation in south Lebanon when it raises the issue of the Lebanese-Israeli accord. The Lebanese opposition is aware that ending this occupation must be realized through an agreement. The real reason why the Lebanese opposition brought the accord to the table is to abolish the advantages that the opposition feels the accord gives Israel at the expense of Lebanese sovereignty.

The Lebanese opposition is not the only one who adopts this view. For example, in a country like France the prime minister has declared that the Israeli accord is defective because it legitimizes the Israeli military presence in south Lebanon.

It is a sound approach to renegotiate — in the Lebanese Dialogue Conference — the Lebanese-Israeli accord. We are not in a position to suggest one particular solution to this problem. However, we do not see Israel as having any legal or practical pretext to refuse negotiating its accord with Lebanon. Nor do we find it justifiable for Israel to say that the abrogation of the accord gives it the right to continue its occupation of south Lebanon.

1. Lebanon and Israel have not yet exchanged any documents endorsing the accord so as to make it final.

2. The accord does not provide that its abrogation or renegotiation gives Israel the right to continue the occupation — given that it commits its signatories.

3. Lebanon did not declare war on Israel so that Israel can have a pretext to ask Lebanon for concessions at the expense of Lebanese sovereignty. Meanwhile, international law prohibits the continuation of military occupation of other countries' territories and the annexation of these territories, even in the case of defensive war.

On purely practical grounds, however, Israel cannot refuse to renegotiate with Lebanon if the other two parties to this agreement— namely, Lebanon and the United States, asked it to do so.

This is what makes the U.S. standpoint a decisive one in this issue. There is no doubt that the U.S. role as a peacemaker in Lebanon and the Middle East requires that the United States take into account the objections that Syria and the opposition leaders raise over the Lebanese-Israeli accord so that a new formula for balance can be sought. If Israel refuses this principle, that will be the problem of the U.S. peacemaker.

Egyptian-British Military Maneuvers End 2 Nov

NC021643 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 2 Nov (MENA) — The final stage of the Egyptian-British military maneuvers "*Hermes* 1" ended today. The maneuvers began last Friday with the arrival in Alexandria of the British aircraft carrier *Hermes*. Egyptian and British land, naval, and air forces participated in the maneuvers. The British aircraft carrier *Hermes* is scheduled to leave Alexandria port for home tomorrow, Thursday, with the British marines on board.

Military Aid to Iraq Reportedly To Increase
GF030938 Doha QNA in Arabic 0848 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Nov (QNA) — In a report from Cairo, the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Anba'* said that Cairo and Baghdad have agreed that Egypt will increase its military aid to Iraq, particularly in the field of aviation. The paper added that an Egyptian military delegation led by the commander of the Air Force is expected to visit Baghdad in a few days in order to discuss the aspects of cooperation and support needed.

'Ali Receives Message From Cheysson 2 Nov
NC021444 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA) — Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, has affirmed that Egypt's election to a seat at the UN Security Council is considered a great success for Egyptian diplomacy and for the Egyptian role in achieving peace and progress in the whole world. In a congratulatory message to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Cheysson expressed his country's hope that Egyptian-French cooperation on the international scene and at the Security Council will continue for the sake of achieving world peace and cooperation. 'Ali received the message when he received French Ambassador in Cairo Philippe Cuvillier today. During the meeting, there was a review of the current situation in the Middle East and in Lebanon in light of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference currently being held in Geneva.

Mubarak Attends Air Force Fete at Air College
NC021353 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak attended the celebration which the Air Force held today on the 51st anniversary of its founding and on the occasion of the conclusion of the 1982-83 training year. The celebration, which was held at the Air College, was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, the deputy prime ministers, ministers, and high-ranking Armed Forces commanders. President Mubarak arrived at the Air College this morning. He was received by Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and senior commanders and officers of the Armed Forces. Following a recitation from the Koran, a flyover began by the various formations, including bombers, fighter planes, military transport planes, training aircraft, and helicopters

Following the celebration President Mubarak made the following statement:

[Begin recording] The men exerted efforts. The Air Force, which is a part of the Armed Forces, exerted great efforts in preparing for the October war, just as the other branches did. Victories were scored by it and by the other branches. I convey my greetings to the men of the Air Force and men of the Armed Forces. [end recording]

At the end of the tour, President Mubarak met with the Air Force commanders and officers and briefed them on the latest developments on the domestic and foreign levels.

Mubarak Issues Decrees on Oil, Telephone Firms
NC011550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Nov 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today issued a presidential decree stipulating that the Egyptian General Oil Authority will supervise the consortium of the public sector oil companies, which include the General Oil Company, the Al-Iskandariyah and An-Nasr Oil Companies, the Suez Oil Processing Company, the Al-Qahirah Oil Refining Company, the Misr Oil Company, the Oil Cooperative Association Company, the Petrogases Company, the Oil Pipeline Company, and the Petrochemical Company.

President Husni Mubarak also issued another decree stipulating tht the National Telecommunications Authority will supervise the Egyptian Telephone Equipment Manufacturing Company. The two decrees stipulate that the two authorities shall have all the jurisdictions contained in the law on public sector authorities.

Muhyi ad-Din To Visit Austria 9 November
NC021230 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] A statement was issued in Cairo and Vienna today on Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din's planned visit to Austria from 9 to 12 November. The statement said the visit is within the framework of strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between Egypt and Austria in all spheres.

The official delegation that will accompany the prime minister includes engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications and marine transport, and Dr Muhammad as-Sayyid al-Gharuri, minister of industry and mineral resources. This visit is at the invitation of Austrian Chancellor Sinowatz.

Abu Ghazalah Postpones Visit to Britain
NC022124 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] London, 2 Nov (MENA) — The MENA correspondent (?in London) has learned that Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, will visit Britain in early December for talks with the British defense minister on a number of military matters.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah was scheduled to visit Britain on 6 November, but the visit has been postponed at the Egyptian deputy prime minister's request.

Abu Ghazalah Visits Bonn

For Hamburg DPA coverage of Deputy Prime Minister and Defense and War Production Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu

Ghazalah's visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, including his talks with Federal Defense Minister Manfred Woerner, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 2 November Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Briefs

***Al-Ahram* International Edition in London, Oct 31** (KUNA) — Tentative arrangements were being made to start the publication in London early in January next year of the "international edition" of the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Ahram*, KUNA learnt here Monday. The paper will cater for the interest of Arabs living in Britain and Europe, featuring their news and activities, Arab publishing sources said. Initially around 50,000 copies will be printed here for distribution in Britain and Europe. It will also be distributed by airmail to the United States on the same day, the sources added. All eight pages of the paper will be relayed by satellite from Cairo, where it will be edited. At a later stage, the publishers plan to devote four special pages, which will be edited in London, to matters of interest to Arabs living in Europe and the U.S. [Text] [Kuwait KUNA in English 1342 GMT 31 Oct 83 LD]

Iran Launches New Offensive in Panjwin
JN030826 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0807 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O great Iraqi people, O sons of the glorious Arab nation, O friends in the whole world: Once again the Iranian rulers in their own way express their disregard of world public opinion and their desire to shed blood and rule at the expense of the dead among their people. Accordingly, and in the hope of fulfilling their heinous expansionist dreams, they have launched a new aggression against our territory in the Panjwin area.

Out of their well-known position and principles, the heroic Iraqis are confronting the new barbarism in order to crush it and teach it a new lesson in the dominance of the laws of life over the trends of death, subversion, and destruction. In the same manner as our forces destroyed their previous attacks and turned the forces of aggression into remnants, they are determined to destroy this offensive and crush the delusions of the criminals ruling over Iran. It is God who grants victory.

3 November 1983

Communique Issued on 2-3 Nov War Operations
JN021737 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,267 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The sons of our lofty people and valiant Army continue their just fighting against the oppressor Iranian enemy, inflicting on its forces of aggression more losses in life and equipment. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Able formations of our fighter aircraft today attacked enemy troop concentrations and military hardware in several areas in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits, inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in life and equipment, and setting fire to several of the enemy's hit targets. All our fighter aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. One of our forward units, backed by artillery, yesterday attacked an enemy troop concentration opposite its positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. Our unit clashed with the enemy with all types of weapons, killing seven, wounding others, and destroying one vehicle and one hardware stockpile. One personnel carrier and two infantry positions were also destroyed in other areas in the same sector.

3. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our units shelled them with their artillery, scoring accurate and effective hits. As a result of our units' shelling, the enemy sustained many killed and wounded. One was also killed and many were wounded in another area in the same sector.

4. Two were killed and two infantry positions were destroyed east of Basra.

5. One observation post in the Maysan sector was destroyed.

6. The rancorous Khomeyniite regime today shelled Khanaqin and its suburbs and one of the villages in the Halabjah district. As a result of the barbaric enemy shelling, four civilians were wounded in one of the villages in the Halabjah district and several civilian installations in Khanaqin were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 November 1983

Spokesman Denies Iranian Claim of Downing Plane
JN021912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has categorically denied Iranian claims of downing two Iraqi aircraft.

In a statement to INA this evening, the spokesman said that all the Iraqi aircraft that carried out their missions against Iranian troop concentrations and military hardware in the northern sector of the battlefield capably and efficiently had returned safely to base. The military spokesman said that the Iranian side has become accustomed to lying in order to cover up for its heavy losses and to justify its continued aggression against Iraq.

'Aziz Confirms Delivery of Super Etendards
JN031107 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Paris, 3 Nov (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the five French Super Etendard jets promised by France to Iraq arrived in Iraq last month, October. In an interview published here today by the newspaper *Le Matin*, which is close to the socialist ruling circles, 'Aziz said that the question of the jets was one of the knottiest problems in Iraqi-French relations. However, he said, the planes are now in Iraq. Iraq is very satisfied because the French Government kept its promise. The Iraqi official indicated that France had acted like a big power which can be trusted and added that France would not regret its action.

Deputy Prime Minister Receives Jordanian Official
JN022007 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, this morning received Walid 'Asfur, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, and his accompanying delegation. The first deputy prime minister emphasized the importance of the 20th Baghdad International Fair and the large participation of world countries. He said that this reflects the importance and strength of Iraq's economy and the confidence the world has in

Iraq's development process despite the circumstances under which this session is being held.

The RCC member asked Walid 'Asfur to convey his greetings to Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran, reiterating the pride of the Iraqi command and people in the advanced fraternal relations with Jordan in all fields.

The Jordanian industry and trade minister conveyed Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran's greetings to Taha Yasin Ramadan and reiterated Jordan's firm stand in support of Iraq, which is defending its sovereignty and territory against the aggression of the rancorous Iranian regime.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed cooperation relations between the fraternal countries, which serve the Arab nation's objectives.

Ramadan Receives Cuban Minister for Talks

JN022123 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here this evening with Levi Farah, Cuban minister of construction [title as received], and his delegation now visiting Iraq. Taha Yasin Ramadan underlined the importance of continuing the visits by the two countries' officials to further promote bilateral relations. He expressed his appreciation for this visit which comes at this particular time.

Ramadan then reviewed the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said that Iraq has left no stone unturned to bring about peace, and this stems from its human principles and eagerness to stop the fighting. Ramadan noted Iraq's abidance by and its welcoming of all the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council, the latest of which is Resolution No 540 issued on 31 October. He also noted Iraq's cooperation and acceptance of all the proposals made by the mediation committees of the Nonaligned Movement and the ICO.

Ramadan said that the international community realizes that Iraq welcomes peace while aggressive Iran is determined to shed more blood and expose the region, including Iran itself, to more devastation and destruction. He voiced his hope that the Nonaligned Movement, as well as the other organizations, would be more active and more serious in working to achieve peace and pressuring the side that rejects the good intentions to bring about peace. This is a human duty and responsibility, Ramadan said.

He also noted that the imperialist onslaught and plotting against the developing countries are being intensified. He stated that imperialism is feeding everything that may hinder the progress of these countries by using its agents, who work to serve imperialist interests and evil intentions, at the peoples' expense.

Ramadan touched on Iraq's economic conditions, explaining that these conditions are excellent and that the future of the Iraqi economy will be much stronger. He said further that we will continue the process of construction and progress.

Levi Farah voiced his admiration for the large-scale upsurge in Iraq which has been achieved during a time of war. He stressed that Iraq is leading a wise policy and that all the world's countries have confidence in Iraq's potential, rich resources, and sound economy. Farah said these countries have voiced their readiness to continue their part in implementing the development projects in Iraq.

Arab and international conditions, the Nonaligned Movement's role in the international arena, and bilateral relations were also discussed in the meeting.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Peasant Delegations

JN022132 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text of speech by President Saddam Husayn at 2 November meeting with the heads of peasant delegations to the Seventh Peasants Conference — recorded]

[Excerpts] I would like to welcome the friends and the brothers. Before the revolution, I was the official in charge of the peasants in the secret organizatin [applause]. I was in charge of guiding the peasants in trade union activities in the secret organization and the official in charge of their party affairs.

What makes us happy in the new process of transformation in Iraq is that the people are now living for the sake of mankind in terms of understanding the sense of responsibility toward the humane role they must assume and not only for a national and pan-Arab role. While the Iraqis are living this way, the Iranian rulers are living otherwise. They want to place their people on a dangerous slope by their withdrawal from modern life and its laws. That is why the war took place, and for these reasons they insist on prolonging it. We light candles while they want to have darkness prevail over Iraq as it has prevailed over Iran.

On the basis of our concept of responsibility, we have approved all the resolutions that were adopted by the UN Security Council, all the resolutions adopted by the Nonaligned Movement, and all the ICO resolutions along with the good ideas that were presented by the regional organizations, of which we and Iran are members. We believed and continue to believe that the basic law of life is peace and not war. [applause] That is why we agreed to the latest UN Security Council resolution. It has become clear to you, brothers and friends, that when Iraq calls for peace it is not because it is afraid, Iraq acts in a responsible manner toward its people and toward the other peoples. Rest assured that while we call for peace and work for it, Iraq will remain protected from the barbaric onslaughts. It would be immoral for us to let barbarism have the upper hand in civilizations. On the basis of this concept, we are fully confident that our people will triumph. We hope that peace will reign in the world, that peoples' rights everywhere will be safeguarded [applause], and that injustice, poverty, and exploitation everywhere will recede. We welcome you as dear friends in Iraq.

AR-RA'Y Criticizes U.S. Interference in Geneva

JN030750 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, *Ar-Ra'y* criticizes U.S. interference in the Geneva conference, as represented by the presence of Fairbanks in Switzerland and Eagleburger in Tel Aviv and the attempt to support the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. *Ar-Ra'y* says: U.S. interference in the Lebanese dialogue is illegitimate, improper, and contains dangers that may cast doubts on U.S. intentions. At the same time, this interference threatens the Lebanese dialogue.

The discusion of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and the agreement to cancel, amend, or keep it is a matter that concerns the Lebanese factions' representatives who are currently holding a dialogue in Geneva. The U.S. Administration has no right to interfere in this dialogue, to try to impose its hegemony on it, or to be biased in favor of one party against another with regard to the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. It is no secret that any behavior of this sort will create obstacles for the Lebanese dialogue and diminish the opportunities of its success.

Nobody has asked the U.S. Administration to poke its nose into that dialogue. If this administration is interested in the success of the dialogue, as it claims to be, then it has to stop interfering in the dialogue because this interference is one of the dangers that may abort it. Unless the U.S. Administration abandons this interference, its behavior can only be interpreted as insistence on wasting the sole opportunity for reconciliation and depriving the dialogue of Lebanese hands so that Lebanon will return to a whirlpool of fighting and move toward dismemberment and division. This is Israel's dearest wish.

Ar-Ra'y concludes: In light of this fact, we hope that the Lebanese factions will place Lebanon's unity and safety above all considerations, and will move toward achieving the hoped for reconciliation. Lebanon is more dear and more permanent than the agreement with Israel. In any circumstance, Lebanon will remain the most important objective, one which must be above either the contentment or wrath of the U.S. Administration.

Husayn Receives Injured Envoy to Italy 2 Nov

JN022025 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received the Jordanian ambassador to Italy, Taysir Tuqan, when he arrived at the queen 'Alia' International Airport this evening. The king was reassured of the ambassador's health. Staff General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Marwan al-Qasim, minister of foreign affairs; the ministry's secretary general; and a number of officials also received the ambassador at the airport.

Tuqan was a target of a treacherous attack in Rome last Wednesday. After arriving at the airport, he was transferred to Al-Husayn Medical Center to receive further treatment.

Prince Hasan Returns From Paris 2 Nov

JN022135 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Amman — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned to Amman this evening after delivering an important speech at the UNESCO general conference. He conveyed His Majesty King Husayn's greetings to the participants in the conference and his wishes for the success of its 22d session. The chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the minister of interior, the French ambassador in Amman, and a number of high-ranking officials received his highness at the airport.

Continuing Reportage on Dialogue Conference

May Accord Discussion Deferred

NC021306 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1154 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Dispatch by Information Ministry mission in Geneva — live]

[Excerpt] Information available here in Geneva indicates that the national dialogue conferees have agreed in principle to defer the discussion of the 17 May accord pending the approval of other items on the agenda. Thus this question has been placed as the final or the penultimate subject on the conference's agenda.

Junblatt Walkout Reported

JN021321 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Dispatch from George Bashir, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Geneva — live]

[Text] This morning, Walid Junblatt walked out from the Lebanese dialogue conference session. His walkout came at the end of the session, 10 minutes ago. This came following a unanimous agreement among the conferees, including Junblatt, on a unified definition of Lebanon's identity, affiliation, and ties with its neighbours and the world. Junblatt's walkout came following a short, mild altercation between him and Pierre al-Jumayyil when the latter asked him not to wrong the Phalangist Party as Al-Jumayyil put it. Junblatt then left his seat and the conference hall for his suite in the hotel. He was followed by Nabih Birri and Rashid Karami who tried to placate him and bring him back to the conference hall. However, President Amin al-Jumayyil adjourned the session until 1700 today.

This morning's session was devoted to discussing the formulas drawn up for Lebanon's identity. A unified definition was unanimously agreed on following the discussions which lasted from 1015-1330 Geneva time. The unified definition will be disseminated later. This was decided following complaints by some conferees that the minutes of the meetings and discussions are being divulged and published by one of the news agencies and some private media and newspapers. Amin al-Jumayyil, then, asked the conferees not divulge any information about the conference's discussions because the sessions are secret.

I have learned that another meeting might take place this afternoon between Amin al-Jumayyil and Syria's Khaddam. It is expected that this meeting will be expanded, unlike yesterday's meeting which was confined to the two men.

On another level, Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim today held contacts with the ambassadors of the states taking part in the Multinational Forces in Lebanon and informed them of the conference proceedings.

[Radio announcer] George, what about the news that Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal may leave for Geneva today? We know that Saudi Arabia is represented by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud. What do you have to say on this.

[Bashir] Information available here indicates that the Saudi foreign minister will arrive in Geneva when a GCC conference which he is currently chairing in Saudi Arabia ends on Thursday, the day after tomorrow. The information I received 30 minutes ago did not confirm whether the Saudi minister will arrive on Thursday or on Friday.

Junblatt Walkout Problem Resolved

JN021927 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatches by George Bashir, Radio Monte Carlo's correspondent in Geneva, and Antoine Nawfal, the Radio Monte Carlo news director — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The Lebanese National Dialogue Conference reconvened a short while ago after a delay of about 1 hour due to the small problems it has so far encountered and which some of the conferees consider as rather big problems. Walid Junblatt's walkout from the conference hall just before the adjournment of the session at noon today, following his mild altercation with Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, was resolved less than 15 minutes ago through the intervention of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Rashid Karami, and Nabih Birri before Junblatt had left the hotel for lunch. And, as a result of other contacts, it was agreed that the National Salvation Front [NSF] leaders— that is, Sulayman Franjiyah, Rashid Karami, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt would pay a courtesy call on President Amin al-Jumayyil in his private wing on the 18th floor of the hotel at 1600 today.

Let us now go back to what went on at this morning's session. Our news director Antoine Nawfal reports.

[Antoine Nawfal] Now that the Lebanese identity has been defined, the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference is expected to quickly move to the subject of the 17 May agreement before dealing with the most important topic, in the opinion of the Lebanese at least— namely, the subject of the national accord.

In this morning's session, the conference began dealing with the 17 May agreement calmly and through strong argument. President Amin al-Jumayyil defended the government's position. He said: The agreement was drawn up in special circumstances when nobody was able to evict Israel from Lebanon. The nonapplication of the agreement was due to Syria's failure to withdraw. However, when Lebanon discusses agreements, it takes into account international pacts and norms as a free, sovereign, independent, and democratic country that resorts to its Chamber of Deputies and public.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who considers himself a party to the dialogue and not an observer when it comes to the question of the agreement, cited President Reagan's message to President al-Asad saying that the cease-fire was conditional on Israel's withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories and also on security arrangements which would be taken by the Lebanese Government to prevent a return to the pre-invasion status. Khaddam added: It was on this basis that Syria agreed to the cease-fire. At any rate, it did not agree to withdrawal from Beirut in the first place. It had its own stand on the negotiations. But you signed

the agreement on our behalf. Syria will not withdraw under this agreement which has kept the Israeli army in Lebanon.

All this talk was conducted in a calm atmosphere and constituted a continuation of the reproof. The conference will delve into the subject of the agreement at this evening's session.

Everyone agrees that President Amin al-Jumayyil was in a good mood today. He showed understanding, acted as an arbiter, andsoftened the atmosphere whenever there were signs of tension.

Even former President Sulayman Franjiyah said in defense of President al-Jumayyil: The constitution makes you the father of all Lebanese.

Fifth Session Convenes 2 Nov

NC021746 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1722 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Dispatch by unidentified Information Ministry mission member in Geneva — live]

[Text] The discussions at the fifth session of the Dialogue Conference have begun. This session convened at 1810 Geneva time, that is, 1910 Beirut time.

The session was held following the solution of the problem that occurred at the hotel entrance between [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah and the Swiss guards. [Former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam had earlier left the hotel for President Franjiyah's residence, and Salam accompanied Franjiyah back in Salam's car.

Upon President Franjiyah's arrival at the hotel entrance, President Amin al-Jumayyil went down to the entrance, embraced President Franjiyah and took his arm amid a crowd of newsmen. Then they went up — accompanied by Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam — to President al-Jumayyil's suite and held a 15-minute meeting.

Meanwhile, the dialogue members were entering the conference hall. At 1805, Presidents Al-Jumayyil, Franjiyah, and Prime Minister Salam entered the conference hall; the session began at 1810.

Fifth Session Postponed

NC021808 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1757 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Dispatch by unidentified Information Ministry mission member in Geneva — live]

[Text] Just 1 minute ago, the National Dialogue Conference's fifth session ended at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Geneva and the interlocutors have begun to leave the hall. We have learned that the session has been postponed until 1000 tomorrow, Geneva time.

Brief Session Held 2 Nov

NC022011 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Dispatch by unidentified Information Ministry mission member in Geneva — live]

[Excerpt] There is still very little information about this evening's session . However, the session lasted only 45 minutes. It seems that the interlocutors want to give time for peripheral contacts and for consultations — which are already underway — in several spheres to achieve a certain formula regarding the 17 May agreement. This agreement was discussed yesterday. The agreement was also the theme of discussions at this evening's session.

What is encouraging is that this important subject, although serious, is being discussed with a spirit of responsibility far removed from outbiddings. Those who are demanding the abolition of the agreement are citing the negative aspects of this agreement and the pitfalls that might ensue from its ratification. However, the other side which adheres to the agreement in the absence of any alternatives, points out the positive and negative aspects of the agreement, as well as what might result from its abrogation. Abrogation involves pitfalls and might produce implications which would threaten to reverse the situation. The most important of these implications is the fact that Israel does not want this agreement to be jeopardized. Furthermore, the United States is a partner in the agreement and the guarantor of its implementation.

Therefore, the United States — through its delegate Ambassador Richard Fairbanks — is moving in all directions. It is holding concerted contacts with all the parties to the dialogue. In addition to the United States, there are the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the French and the Italians, who are also in Geneva. They are also moving with the objective of achieving an appropriate formula that would ensure a unified Lebanese stance regarding the agreement.

At this moment, conference spokesman Mr Faruq Jabr is holding a news conference to brief correspondents on the results of the fifth session. We will provide you with the details as soon as we receive them.

Session Discussed May Accord

NC022102 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Dispatch by unidentifed Information Ministry mission member in Geneva — live]

[Excerpt] Our latest information regarding tonight's session indicates that the session concentrated on the topic of the May 17 accord. We have learned from unofficial sources that during the meeting President Franjiyah submitted a proposal to freeze the accord. Rashid Karami spoke afterward. He opposed Franjiyah's proposal and called for completely abrogating the accord. President Camille Sham'un asked for the floor and submitted a third proposal providing for a temporary freeze of the accord pending

discussion by a government of national unity. Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam also asked for the floor and submitted a proposal to revise the accord without defining the competent authority to undertake this revision.

With these four proposals on the table, Prime Minister Karami proposed to adjourn the session and examine the four proposals during an expanded session of the National Dialogue Committee to be held tomorrow. Subsequently, it was decided to adjourn the session and discuss this subject during the National Dialogue Committee meeting tomorrow at 1000.

We also learned a short while ago that President Amin al-Jumayyil has contacted Speaker al-As'ad and Prime Minister al-Wazzan by phone. He briefed them on the talks conducted today.

National Salvation members Rashid Karami, Walid Junblatt, and Nabih Birri are currently meeting at Birri's suite in the Inter-Continental Hotel. Franjiyah is currently meeting with U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Richard Fairbanks at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Geneva.

We have also learned that Minister Khaddam has left his suite in the Inter-Continental Hotel to have a meeting outside the hotel. We do not know with whom he is meeting.

Agreement To Freeze Accord

JN022128 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch by George Bashir, Radio Monte Carlo's correspondent in Geneva — live]

[Text] The evening session held by the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference did not last more than 1 hour. The surprise was that the Lebanese conferees from both sides agreed in principle to freeze the Lebanese-Israeli agreement which was signed by the United States. The proposal to freeze the agreement was made by former President Sulayman Franjiyah and was endorsed by Camille Sham'un, Sa'ib Salam, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, and Nabih Birri.

Several proposals were made by the conferees on this subject during the session. However, it was decided just before the adjournment of the session to examine all proposals thoroughly and to draft a unified proposal so it can be discussed during tomorrow morning's session.

Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is expected to present his country's opinion on the draft resolution which the Lebanese leaders are considering to submit during the session tomorrow morning, Thursday. Therefore, there are bound to be some reservations until Minister Khaddam has presented his opinion tomorrow. During this session, President Amin al-Jumayyil went out of his away to again praise the Saudi role and the efforts exerted by King Fahd. After the session, President al-Jumayyil met for about 1 hour with Saudi Minister of State Shaykh Muhammad al-Mas'ud and Rafiq al-Hariri.

Committee on Accord Formed

NC030544 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] A committee has been formed in Geneva to draft an article concerning the suspension (tajmid) of the 17 May accord on the basis of the three proposals that have been presented by [former] Presidents Sham'un and Franjiyah and [former] Prime Minister Salam.

Sixth Session Begins 3 Nov

NC030953 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch by unidentified Information Ministry mission reporter in Geneva — Live]

[Text] The Information Ministry mission greets you again from Geneva. The sixth session of the National Dialogue Conference is expected to begin any time now on the 18th floor of the Inter-Continental Hotel in Geneva. It appears that the interlocutors are now awaiting the arrival of [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam to the conference hall. His Excellency President al-Jumayyil, [former] Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran, [former] President Camille Sham'un, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah, Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, Minister Khaddam, and Saudi Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud have already entered the hall.

We shall be here to rpovide you with all the details about the session. I have just learned that Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam has arrived at the conference hall, and the session will begin at this moment — this is at 1033 [Geneva time]. Indeed, the sixth session of the National Dialogue Conference began in the Inter-Continental Hotel in Geneva now, at 1033 Geneva time. We shall be with you to provide any available information.

Sixth Session Ends

NC031142 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1128 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch by unidentified Information Ministry mission reporter in Geneva — Live]

[Text] The Information Ministry mission again greets you from Geneva. The sixth session of the national reconciliation conference [as heard] in Geneva ended 2 minutes ago. The session began at 1030, Geneva time. We have now learned that the session that will be held at 1700 this evening will be confined to the heads of the delegations.

[Former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, during the morning session that ended 2 minutes ago, submitted a proposal providing for abrogating the [Israeli-Lebanese] agreement. The Lebanese Front submitted another proposal providing for freezing [tajmid] discussion of this agreement. We will give you further details as soon as they become available. This is Geneva and we return you back to Beirut.

Syria Insists on Abrogating 17 May Accord
NC031027 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch by unidentified VOL correspondent in Geneva — recorded]

[Excerpt] Today's meeting is expected to be decisive, particularly since President Sulayman Franjiyah and Prime Minister Rashid Karami have proposed that the Lebanese-Israeli accord be frozen. During his meeting with Birri and Junblatt, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam insisted on abrogating the accord, adding that he will not accept any compromise.

RFL Reports Bomb Threat at Geneva Hotel
NC021814 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Our correspondent in Geneva has learned from well-informed sources that the Swiss security authorities received information about the presence of three bombs in the [Inter-Continental] Hotel, but the Swiss authorities failed to detect any bombs [words indistinct] measures to tighten security.

Ihdin Cites Franjiyah's 2 Nov Geneva Address
NC021256 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] In his address to the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva today, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah stressed the need to annul the ill-omened 17 May accord, because it links Lebanon with Israel and because it is against the Arabs. He added that the Lebanese entertain divergent views regarding the accord. He asked: Is it possible to achieve an accord with the enemy? It seems that such an accord has been attained and that Lebanon has, accordingly, lost its sovereignty.

Franjiyah denounced the accord's provisions, particularly those pertaining to the security arrangements. He said: These provisions prevent us from allowing any Arab aircraft or ship to use our airspace or waters. He asked: Where is our sovereignty then? He added: If we were to ask the assistance of Spain, with whom we have historical relations and which has no diplomatic relations with Israel, would this mean an encroachment on our sovereignty?

Franjiyah said: The accord prevents us from exchanging ambassadors with states that have no relations with Israel, like the Vatican, for example. What would our stand be on the presence of the papal nuncio, should Israel reject that? He asked: Are the Sa'd Haddad forces agents or not? He then asked: What about the arms and the definition of arms in the security zone and the conditions [words indistinct] by means of radar?

Franjiyah said Israel has been existing since 1948 and the southerners have been paying and continue to pay the price for that. Since they are prepared to offer sacrifices, why then the accord?

Franjiyah said: I would like to ask the permission of my Muslim brothers to say: There will always be Mecca and Medina if the Al-Aqsa Mosque is gone. But, as a Christian, where shall I go to perform my pilgrimage? If we truly believe that we are Arabs, we should never tell our brothers that we are friends of their enemy. We must choose between Israel's friendship and the Arabs' friendship.

Franjiyah then addressed the president of the republic, saying: Your foreign minister said he will not close 22 doors to open 1 door. What are our relations with our Arab brothers? I am asking this question, not out of my love toward our Arab brothers, but out of eagerness to defend our interests. [words indistinct]. I strongly believe that Israel wants only the well-being of the Jews.

Birri Reconfirms Stand on Israeli Withdrawal
JN022058 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2045 GMT 2 Nov 83

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The Swiss television network this evening aired statements by Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, who is participating in the National Dialogue Conference. Birri said that Israel's withdrawal is a priority and that the U.S. forces must withdraw from the southern suburb of Beirut.

He added: We have been insisting since the beginning of the conference on the need to cancel the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. We call for the Israelis' withdrawal from southern Lebanon without any strings attached. He added: We cannot call for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces, which came to Lebanon at the Lebanese Government's request, if the Israeli forces do not withdraw first.

Regarding the U.S. forces, Birri said: We call for the removal of U.S. forces from the southern suburb because these forces have become one of the conflicting parties. He said further that he has conveyed this desire to President Ronald Reagan's envoy.

Mas'ud Holds Talks With Al-Jumayyil, Khaddam
LD022107 Riyadh SPA in English 1907 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Geneva, Nov 2, SPA — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil discussed here today with Saudi Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud ways which could lead to the success of the Lebanese reconciliation dialogue now in progress in Geneva.

Later, Mas'ud also conferred with Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and evaluated the outcome of sessions held so far to reach a dialogue among Lebanese factions.

Lebanese Communist Action Leader on Geneva Talks

LD311104 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 31 Oct 83

[Text] Algiers, 31-10-83 (APS) — "The conference of national reconciliation will be a test for assessing chances of the organization of a round table which will enable the different sides to discuss problems of Lebanon". Mr. Husayn Ibrahim, secretary general of the organization of the Lebanese Communist Action declared when leaving Algiers yesterday.

"It is too early to speak about results of Geneva's conference but I can [as received] that the conditions are not favorable for a just solution of the Lebanese crisis", Mr. Ibrahim pointed out, adding that a real round table on Middle-East problems in general (because the Lebanese crisis is the summary of these problems) is more than necessary. "During Geneva's conference, things will not go beyond a certain level of discussion which will enable to fix points of an agenda capable of implementing a certain political solution", Mr. Ibrahim indicated.

Asked about chances of success of the conference, the Lebanese responsible answered: "Till now, there was no convincing sign that this conference will be the last one" because differences between the "Kataib" plan and the plan of national forces dominate all the fundamental questions, i.e., the fate of the Libano-Israeli accord, the fate of south Lebanon severely controlled by Israel, the integrity of the country, the unity of Lebanon, and finally the fate of the very democracy in this country.

"The Phalangist Party is, for us, Israel's ally and it will not be easy to convince it that Lebanon is an Arab country and that Israel is the common enemy of all the Arab countries", he pointed out, while expressing his pessimism as to the results of this meeting.

Speaking about the plan of action of his organization, Mr. Ibrahim indicated that since the election of the new president, his party is in the opposition inside the country and struggles against Israel through the Lebanese patriotic resistance front.

Consequently, "we are against the presence of the Marines in Lebanon and we work in the sense of the strengthening of our relations with progressist parties and countries and it is the aim of my visit in Algeria which is for us one of the rarest Arab countries which sincerely supports us and politically struggles with us for an Arab, independent and united Lebanon".

Al-Wazzan Appeals for End to Tripoli Fighting

NC031257 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has followed up the developments of the security situation in the north and contacted the leaders there, calling for action to contain and put an end to the clashes. Prime Minister al-Wazzan expressed regret over these events and addressed a humanitarian appeal to stop the fighting which is destroying national installations and killing innocent citizens.

[Begin Al-Wazzan recording] At a time when the Lebanese are meeting in the dialogue of hope for rescuing the homeland from its continuing tragedy, we were surprised by bloody events in the dear north where fighting is expanding and bloodshed and destruction are increasing. This has also affected institutions of public service to all the citizens, including the oil refineries which are on fire. It has also confronted the citizens with new dangers. Lebanon is addressing an appeal to the fighters on its territory in the north. The people have had enough bloodshed and enough destruction and ruin. I appeal to everyone to stop this fighting and spare the people further tragedies, which exhaust the resources and frustrate hopes. My great hope is that everyone will see in this appeal an appeal from heart to heart for the sake of salvation. [end recording]

Security Arrangements Committee Discusses Clashes

NC021815 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The Security Arrangements Committee held its 23d meeting today and discussed the subject of the clashes that are repeated daily. As usual, the committee did not issue any statement following its meeting. However, well-informed sources have said: At its meeting, the committee discussed numerous security and every-day life subjects; the most prominent discussion centered on the cease-fire violation incidents and the reasons that led to yesterday's sudden escalation in some areas, particularly in the mountain area. The purpose of the discussion was to tackle the reasons for this, to remove them, and to contain anything that might jeopardize the state of calm.

Security Situation Deteriorates

NC021840 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] The combat axes on the mountain and in the southern suburb are still the scene of clashes with various kinds of weapons. These clashes follow this afternoon's sudden heightening in the security situation on the southern suburb's axes, where clashes took place between the Army and gunmen and during which automatic weapons and RPG's were used.

Security sources stated that contacts are underway to calm down the security situation. A security source said that the Army positions in (Sfayr) and Mar Mikhayil at 1500 came under attack with RPG's and gunfire.

The Army responded to the firing with the appropriate weapons. Security sources stated that at 1800 today shells landed in the areas of Sinn al-Fil and Al-Mukallis. At 1830, four shells fell between the areas of 'Arayya al-Luwayzah and Jumhur.

In the Al-Kharrub region, violent clashes broke out at 1700 today and these clashes are still in progress with various kinds of weapons between Barja and B'asir on the one hand and Al-Jiyah and Harat B'asir on the other.

Marines Stop Infiltration Attempt Near Airport

NC031020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Major Robert Jordan, the spokesman of the U.S. contingent, has stated that the Marines last night repulsed an infiltration attempt around their positions at Beirut International Airport. He added that shooting from light weapons took place from the southern side of the U.S. position and that the soldiers returned the fire.

Israelis Setting Up Radio Station in South

NC020710 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] In a step toward maintaining the occupation forces in southern Lebanon, security reports indicate that Israeli experts are strengthening the radio and television transmission pylons on the high hills of Jabal Safi east of Jba', Jazzin hills, and the eastern hills overlooking Sidon and its coastal area.

It has been learned that the experts have installed equipment for a special broadcasting station for the local Israeli administration in the south in the event the 17 May accord is annulled. The broadcasting station has been named "the 17 May radio" [idha'at as-sabi' 'ashar min ayyar].

Amal Dissident Denies Beirut Bombings Involvement

PM021118 [Editorial Report] Paris *Le Matin* in French on 28 October 1983 carries on page 12 a 1,700-word Jean-Paul Kauf fmann Ba' labakk dispatch on his meeting in Ba'labakk with Husayn Musawi, leader of the Amal Movement's dissident faction, in which Musawi reportedly denied any responsibility for the bombing of the American and French contingents' quarters in Beirut: "I have no connection with the people who committed the two attacks. I say that and it is the truth." Musawi went on to say that "the people who did that are the sons and brothers of the Sabra and Shatila martyrs" and those who call for the withdrawal of the Multinational Force from Beirut. The second half of the dispatch is devoted to a description of Ba'labakk and the present mood in the city. Paris *Le Monde* in French on 2 November 1983 carries on page 3 a 900-word interview with Husayn Musawi in Ba'labakk by J.M. Durand-Souffland. Questioned on the Beirut bombings, he again says: "Everybody must realize that we have nothing to do with this affair." Musawi warns the United States against reprisals, predicts failure for the Geneva national reconciliation conference, and looks forward to entering Jerusalem with his "Iranian brothers" after "the defeat of the Baghdad regime."

Minister Halawi Returns From Egypt 1 Nov

NC012012 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Minister of Economy, Trade, and Tourism Ibrahim Halawi has emphasized that his visit to Cairo has achieved positive results, which will soon appear in a tangible form. He announced the signing of a Lebanese-Egyptian agreement under which all the economic agreements signed between the two countries will be implemented, especially the 1965 protocol. Minister Halawi said this in a statement at Beirut International Airport following his return to Beirut from Cairo this afternoon.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives Damascus 2 Nov

JN030551 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damacus this evening on a visit.

Speaking to a SANA correspondent, Klibi underlined the importance of the talks he will hold with Syrian officials, the foremost of whom is President Hafiz al-Asad. He noted in this regard the great pan-Arab responsibility Syria is enduring while confronting the Israeli challenges. Klibi spoke highly of Syria's big efforts to help fraternal Lebanon surmount its ordeal and to return it to the Arab ranks.

He further said: My visit to Damascus comes within the framework of the larger consultations held on the level of the Arab homeland to outline the features of the future joint Arab action that will be decided at the 16th Arab summit conference. Naturally, my visit to Damascus today is part of the preparations for this summit.

Al-Asad Receives Klibi 3 Nov

JN031301 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Damascus on Lebanese Dialogue Conference Discussions

Identity Discussed

JN021354 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Geneva — The Lebanese National Dialogue Conference resumed its work here today focusing on what was discussed by the committee formed to deal with the issue of Lebanon's identity. News agencies also quoted the conference sources as saying that the conference delegations will discuss the draft which was prepared to define Lebanon's identity.

The Lebanese nationalist forces today said that the committee, which was formed yesterday by the expanded conference to define Lebanon's identity had reached a dead end. AFP cited these sources as saying that the two sides of the conference, which continued meeting until midnight last night, did not reach an agreement on a unified concept of Lebanon's identity.

Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, said at the end of the second session yesterday, that the members of the dialogue conference had decided to entrust a committee to discuss the issue of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. He explained that this committee would present the results, of its discussions today.

Report on 1 Nov Discussions

JN020710 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Geneva — A Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] source has said that yesterday was a busy day in Geneva. The dialogue committee began discussing the issues for which it had convened. The committee held two sessions. The first session began at 1000 and Mr Amin al-Jumayyil, head of the present government in Beirut, spoke. He suggested dividing up the dialogue into three topics: The first topic to be the reconciliation, the second topic the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, and the third political reforms. The source added that Al-Jumayyil suggested deferring these topics to specialized committees. Nabih Birri objected to Al-Jumayyil's suggestion and considered it to be a violation of the original agenda on which the preparatory committee had agreed. Birri said that the regarded committees as the graveyard for all plans.

The leaders of the Lebanese National Salvation Front [NSF] insisted on adhering to the original agenda and this was accepted. The first session was then ajourned and the source said the meeting would be resumed at 1700 Geneva time.

During the morning session, Camille Sham'un read the statement of the so-called Lebanese Front. He was followed by Sa'ib Salam who gave his opinion on the reconciliation. President Sulayman Franjiyah then interrupted, stressing Lebanon's Arabism and demanding the cancellation of the 17 May agreement. He said: We want to understand whether Lebanon is Arab or Cypriot. Franjiyah demanded the cancellation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement because it has violated Lebanon's sovereignty, restricted its freedom, and exposed its various interests to harm. The agreement, he added, keeps Lebanon away from its Arab surroundings and hinders its Arab and international commitments. In condemning this agreement, Franjiyah cited paragraphs from the agreement.

A heated discusion ensued when Pierre Al-Jumayyil compared the Syrian presence in Lebanon with the Israeli occupation. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and PSP leader Walid Junblatt took part in this discussion, categorically rejecting this comparison. In his answer to Pierre al-Jumayyil, Khaddam reviewed in detail the stages which preceded the agreement of submission and the numerous contacts which were held before the agreement was signed, including the Beirut Government's foreign minister's visit to Damascus and the clear Syrian answer which President Hafiz al-Asad gave him. The Syrian answer categorically rejected this agreement because of its threat to Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab homeland.

Khaddam asserted that Syria informed Lebanon, the United States, and some Arab states that any agreement which is signed by Lebanon with Israel and which realizes gains in Lebanon for Israel will lead to keeping the Syrian forces in Lebanon until these gains are annuled.

Khaddam then reviewed the articles of the agreement, explaining the threats, dangers, and consequences on the Lebanese, Syrian, and Arab levels; and affirming that Syria will stick to its stand on this issue.

The source added that the dialogue committee members resumed their meeting at 1700. Junblatt dealt with the issue of Lebanon's identity, saying: We want Lebanon only as a soverign, independent, and Arab country. A committee was formed to discuss the issue of Lebanon's identity. The committee comprised: Haytham Jum'ah from the Amal Movement, Marwan Hamadah of the PSP, 'Umar Missayki representing Rashid Karami, Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi representing Sulayman Franjiyah, Deputy Jamil Kubbih representing Sa'ib Salam, and Marun Hilu representing the National Liberals Party. The committee will present the results of its discussions to the conference this morning.

The source also said that following the evening session of the dialogue conference, Junblatt held a news conference attended by the various Arab and foreign news agency correspondents in which he spoke about the formation of this committee saying: Lebanon's identity must be defined in a final and decisive manner. It should be made clear whether Lebanon is a U.S. base, an Israeli protectorate, or an Arab state. He said: For us, Lebanon is an independent Arab state.

Answering a question on whether Lebanon is a Syrian base, Junblatt said: Why does the United States permit itself to enter Suq al-Gharb, thousands of kilometers away from the United States under the pretext of its security, while Syria is not allowed to express its right to take care of its threatened security?

On the final position concerning the dialogue, Junblatt said: It is very difficult to fix a date for the end of the dialogue meeting.

Evaluating the need for defining the identity of Lebanon, Junblatt said: This definition is very important because the future Lebanese generations should not be left to study its country's history in a contradictory manner. He insisted on the need to unify and correct the Lebanese history books, saying: There are certain issues which we should make clear. For example, according to the Phalangists, a man like Bashir al-Jumayyil was a patriot. As for us, I put it moderately when I say that he was a traitor.

The source said that during the session, Nabih Birri touched on the issue of the Lebanese Army saying: The present army is a sectarian army. A new army must be built on a nonsectarian basis; an army that would protect the country and the entire Lebanese people. Birri dwelt on the tragedies of southern Lebanon, the Israeli aggressions which have been launched on it since 1984, and the suffering and afflictions to which the people there have been exposed. Nevertheless, the southern Lebanese people bore these tragedies with courage and fortitude. Birri made it clear that the agreement of submission gave Israel a legitimate reason to continue its occupation of southern Lebanon. He demanded the cancellation of the agreement because it will not realize Israel's withdrawal — which is proved by what Israel did and is still doing in southern Lebanon.

In reply to Pierre al-Jumayyil's question on an alternative solution in case the agreement is canceled, Birri says: The only solution is the Lebanese unity against Israel, the unification of all of the Lebanese forces, and the struggle on all levels. The dialogue committee has decided to resume meeting this morning to discuss this issue.

Agreement Reached on Identity

JN0021945 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Geneva — The spokesman of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference has announced that the participants in the dialogue, during their meeting at noon today, reached an agreement on the definition of Lebanon's identity. Citing the conference's sources, reports said that the agreement reached defines Lebanon's identity as follows: Lebanon is a sovereign, independent state united in land, people, and institutions within its boundaries which are outlined in the Lebanese constitution and which are internationally recognized. Lebanon is of Arab affiliation and identity, a founding and active member of the League of Arab States, and is committed to all its charters and that these principles should be embodied in all fields without exception.

The Lebanese National Dialogue Conference resumed its discussions in Geneva this morning for the 2d consecutive day.

4th Session Reviewed

JN0030640 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Geneva — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, met with the leaders of the Lebanese National Salvation Front and with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri in Geneva last night. This meeting took place at the end of the fourth session of the Lebanese national dialogue conference.

The Lebanese National Dialogue Conference will resume its meetings in Geneva today. Yesterday evening's session was devoted to the discussion of the agreement of submission concluded with the Zionist enemy. However, the conferees did not reach any agreement on this subject. The morning session was crowned with an agreement defining Lebanon's identity as a sovereign, independent country that is united in land, people, and institutions within its boundaries — as stated in the Lebanese constitution and as recognized on both the international and Arab level. Lebanon has Arab affiliation and identity, is a founding and active member of the Arab League, and is committed to all the Arab League's charters and resolutions.

In another development, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, who is currently in Geneva to attend the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference, called for the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Beirut's southern suburb because these Marines have become a party to the conflict. In a statement to Swiss television last night, Birri said that if this request is not met, he will call for the Multinational Force's withdrawal from Beirut. Radio Monte Carlo said that Birri also indicated that he and the members of the National Salvation Front attending the Dialogue Conference insisted on the cancellation of the contract of submission concluded with the Zionist enemy. They called for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon.

Report on Junblatt Walkout

JN022151 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2109 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Geneva, 2 Nov (SANA) — The Lebanese National Dialogue Conference resumed its sessions here this evening in the presence of all the participants. A responsible source in the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] said that during the morning session, the conferees reached an agreement defining Lebanon's identity as a sovereign independent state united in land, people, and institutions within the boundaries outlined in the Lebaense constitution which are recognized on the international and Arab level. Lebanon is of Arab affiliation and identity, a founding and active member of the Arab League, and is committed to all its charters and resolutions.

The conferees then discussed the withdrawal of the Zionist enemy's army from Lebanon and the cancellation of the contract of subjugation with the enemy. PSP leader Walid Junblatt explained in this regard that the contract of subjugation had been imposed on Lebanon under the cover of the Israeli canopy and foreign interference and pressure. Raising this issue led to the discussion of the Phalange Party and its militias' dealings with the Israeli enemy. Pierre al-Jumayyil interrupted those who were talking, claiming that his party did not deal with the enemy at all. This caused Walid Junblatt and members of the National Salvation Front to walk out of the meeting.

In statements he made after walking out of the meeting, Walid Junblatt accused Amin al-Jumayyil, head of the ruling regime in Lebanon, of being involved in the internal conflict and foreign [word indistinct]. Junblatt is opposed to Amin al-Jumayyil as an arbiter because he is a party to the conflict. He stated further that Amin al-Jumayyil is not an arbiter but a Phalangist president who assumed his post as a result of known circumstances following the Israeli invasion. Everything has been exposed, he said.

Junblatt hoped that the evening session would be better than the morning one. He said: I was talking about the contract of subjugation but they interrupted me. The atmosphere was not democratic at all. We will continue to discuss this subject in the evening and I hope that the atmosphere will be better so we can express our opinion.

In another development, some problems occurred today when the Swiss police, upon the instructions of President (?al-Jumayyil), searched former President Sulayman Franjiyah several times. President al-Jumayyil, however, paid a visit to former President Franjiyah in his suite at the hotel and apologized to him about what had happened. Al-Jumayyil then accompanied Franjiyah to the meeting hall to attend the evening session.

Kuwaiti Daily on U.S. 'Interference'

JN011530 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 83

[Text] Geneva — The Lebanese National Dialogue Conference resumed its work at noon today in the presence of all parties. The big argument which took place after the opening session yesterday on the talks formula and nonagreement on the agenda has led to the postponement of the first working session for today. Reports from the conference say that former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam will speak at today's session.

Reports from Geneva say that U.S. Ambassador Richard Fairbanks, who is currently in Geneva along with a U.S. working team, has started to interfere behind the scenes in order to reach a solution formula to the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of submission which this conference is discussing seriously. The Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas*, which published this report, says that Lebanese National Salavation Front circles have said that there are contacts of such type but there is still no definite formula for a settlement.

Damascus Commentary

JN021754 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The tone of optimism which characterized the preliminary reports on the Lebanese national dialogue meeting in Geneva has faded away. The current reports have begun to carry differences in viewpoints among the conferees, hardships facing the conference, and conflicting proposals presented by the participating parties in the conference. In fact, the great optimism over the possibility of solving all Lebanon's problems and their subsequent matters by a mere convocation of a national dialogue conference and the meeting of the conflicting sides at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva is misplaced and ignores the real situation and the facts that are present in Lebanon. This optimism also ignores Lebanon's present political situation, the complications which occured in Lebanon's relations with others, and the relations among the Lebanese parties. However, to keep oneself removed from unjustified and unrealistic optimism does not mean one is slipping into pessimism or disregarding the Lebanese national dialogue by considering it mere propaganda that ends when the lights of the television equipments are turned off. This will keep Lebanon's problems unsolved, and the dangers which threaten the lives, existence, and unity of the Lebanese, and Lebanon's territorial integrity, will continue to deteriorate.

To be overly optimistic to the extent of yielding to dreams and wishes is a mistake which does not serve anyone. Also, yielding to pessimism is a bigger mistake which slows down one's zeal and does not benefit anyone. It also blocks objectivity and the means to deal with the available facts and capabilities to handle the hardships and problems which were originated and developed during numerous years under internal and external influence and amidst natural and fabricated conflicts.

The meeting of the Lebanese leaders in Geneva within a national dialogue conference is a positive sign in the current Lebanese political life. It refers to the presence of a conviction by the Lebanese majority and political forces that the approach to save Lebanon from its predicament is the convergence and agreement of the Lebanese on common factors and principles to continue Lebanon's march, restore Lebanese cohesion, and ensure a guaranteed future for Lebanon within its natural surroundings.

It is improper to believe that the mere presence of this conviction will lead the conferees to reach a comprehensive agreement on all the issues for which they fought each other for many long years. There are detailed and demanding issues which will be difficult to agree on by the conferees either now or in the near future. Time is what is necessary for the Lebanese to find the accepted methods to implement the necessary solutions to these issues. Yet, there are insisting and urgent matters on which stands must be adopted and which must be dealt with because they are the causes of everything in Lebanon. If the Lebanese do not agree on these matters and unify their ranks around their agreement, and if they do not struggle for implementing this agreement, they will be missing a historical opportunity; and thus, Lebanon will be paying a dear price for disagreement on the principles of Lebanon's existence and march.

What is required from the Lebanese is to agree on which Lebanon they want. Is it the Lebanon of the Lebanese — a nationalist, Arab, and Syrian Lebanon which conforms to its history, geography, and real interests — or the Israeli Lebanon, which is hostile to Syria, the Arabs, and the Lebanese majority's national interests — or the U.S. Lebanon, which is subjugated to U.S. imperialism and directed against Syria, the Arabs, and national liberation movements and which forms a military base for the United States and NATO? Answering this question will show where Lebanon is heading.

If the Lebanese leaders agree that Lebanon must be the Lebanon of the Lebanese, the nationalist, and the Arab, the door will be open for agreement on important and insisting matters; such as the U.S.-Israeli agreement which is intended to be imposed on Lebanon in order to separate it from the Arab fold and to transform it into a U.S.-Israeli instrument which is directed against the Arabs and Syria. These leaders will find that the Lebanese majority will rally around this agreement within the framework of a strong national unity which is the base and condition for any success in liberating Lebanon, rebuilding it, and unifying its land and people. The Lebanese will also find that Syria, the Arabs, and the lovers of freedom, rights, and justice in the world are sticking to their side. If any other selection were chosen, one that would strip Lebanon of its nature, surroundings, role and affiliation, and transform it into an extention of Israel's security and part of the U.S. national security; that is, to turn Lebanon into an instrument for U.S. imperialism and Israel and a base and passage for them toward Syria and the rest of the Arab countries, then this choice would only mean the destruction of the foundation on which the Lebanese entity and state were based with all its possibilities inside and around Lebanon.

Faruq ash-Shar', Libya's Al-'Ubaydi Meet

JN021530 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 2 Nov (SANA) — Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the General People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The talks revolved around the situation in the region and the results of Al-'Ubaydi's tour of a number of Gulf states, Aden, and San'a'. Al-'Ubaydi arrived in Damascus this morning.

Al-'Ubaydi Departs

JN022010 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, today received 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the General People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who arrived in Damascus this morning. The talks revolved around the situation in the region and the results of Al-'Ubaydi's tour of a number of Gulf states, Aden and San'a'.

Al-'Ubaydi left Damascus this evening after his short visit to Syria.

Prime Minister al-Kasm Confers With Romania's Oprea

JN021514 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 2 Nov (SANA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received here at noon today Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea, who is currently visiting Syria. During a meeting they held, the talks revolved around the various issues pertaining to the existing economic relations between the two friendly countries.

Dr al-Kasm also acquainted himself with the results of the fifth session of the Joint Syrian-Romanian Committee meetings that will contribute to the promotion and development of bilateral cooperation.

Further on Meeting

JN022000 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm this afternoon received Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea. 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs; and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Oprea conveyed to the prime minister Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu's greetings. The talks revolved around various issues pertaining to the existing econonic relations between the two friendly countries, especially the joint projects as well as spheres of cooperation that are being followed up and implemented between Syria and Romania.

The prime minister also acquainted himself with the results of the fifth session of the Joint Syrian-Romanian Committee meetings that will contribute to the promotion of the existing cooperation and the increase of commercial exchange. Emphasis was also put on the importance of the meetings of the joint committee to develop relations of friendship and cooperation and realize the best possible results.

At the end of their meeting, the prime minister asked Oprea to convey his greetings to the Romanian prime minister.

SANA on Execution of Putschist Iraqi Officers
JN021443 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (News agencies) — Reliable sources have confirmed that a few days ago the ruling regime in Iraq executed all the officers loyal to Barzan at-Tikriti, the former head of Iraqi intelligence and Saddam Husayn's half -brother, on charges of conspiring to topple the ruling regime.

These sources added that the dispute was more than 3 months old and began when Saddam Husayn appointed his son as lieutenant pilot and deputy director of the intelligence service, and instructed the press and the media to highlight his heroic feats in the black Al-Qadisiyah battles.

The sources said that this matter angered Saddam's half-brother, Barzan at-Tikriti, and that this was the beginning of their differences which led to the dimissal of Barzan at-Tikriti from his post.

Eagleburger Holds Meetings With Officials

Meeting With Ben-Me'ir

TA0021144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1115 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Report by Arye Golan from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem — recorded]

[Text] Well, this morning Eagleburger held two sets of talks: first with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and then with Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir. In this latter talk the U.S. guest said that his country's operations in various places around the world prove the determination of the United States and President Reagan to defend the interests of the free world. The President, he continued, is convinced of the need to tighten coordination and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

As for the Syrian demand [tevi'at] at the Geneva conference to cancel the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, Lawrence Eagleburger promised that the United States stands behind this agreement, is not prepared to give it up, and will continue to support it.

Following the talk, Deputy Foreign Minister Ben-Me'ir told us: The United States and Israel will not allow Syria to take over Lebanon.

[Ben-Me'ir] There is no doubt that Lebanon is one of the major issues on our agenda, especially in light of what is happening in Geneva now. We talked about this. I noted the boastful remarks made by Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam. This boastful and sharp style is very characteristic of the totalitarian and brutal regime of Hafiz al-Asad in Syria, a regime which issues a brutal threat and wants to take control by force of a small and weak neighbor. This is not a threat to Lebanon only; this is a Soviet-backed Syrian threat to the entire region.

Under Secretary Eagleburger told me of the determination of the United States and its President to take firm action to defend the interests of the free world as the United States sees them. He pointed to U.S. operations in various places around the world. His reference was to Beirut, of course — the U.S. President's unequivocal resolution not to pull the Multinational Force out of Beirut — as well as the U.S. operation in another part of the world, far from here. He emphasized it is certainly important for everyone to know that the United States is resolved to take action if necessary. As he said: If we are involved in the matter already, we would have no intention of withdrawing.

[Golan] Another issue raised in the talk was the Jordanian task force which the United States wants to set up. The U.S. under secretary says: Cooperation between us also means understanding on Israel's part when we equip Arab countries with arms. In response Yehuda Ben-Me'ir repeated Israel's stance that the arming of any Arab country which is in a state of war with us endangers our security. This issue, as well as others, will be discussed in the afternoon, in talks between Prime Minister Shamir and the visiting U.S. diplomat.

Meeting With Shamir, Press

TA0021907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] American Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for over an hour this evening after a long day of discussions at the Foreign Ministry. Afterwards Eagleburger told reporters the discussions ranged around the world. As he explained American policy in the Caribbean, the Grenada situation, East-West relations, including the proposed posting of nuclear missiles in Europe, Eagleburger said his talks on the Middle East with the Prime Minister centered on Lebanon.

[Begin Eagleburger recording] Obviously we spent as well a good bit of time discussing the situation in the Middle East, with particular attention to the Lebanon, and my reemphasizing the President's statement of last week that despite the terrible tragedy — the murder I will call it — of our Marines there, the United States intends to continue to maintain its presence in the Multinational Force, and we discussed the situation surrounding Israel here in the Middle East, including a common discussion of the situation as we see it with regard to Syria. I think I'd like to leave it at that. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Talking with Israelis after his day of meetings in Jerusalem, the U.S. under secretary of state repeated the U.S. commitment to supporting the Lebanese Government and getting all foreign forces out of Lebanon. According to Lawrence Eagleburger, the United States won't be understanding of anyone who stands in the way of a successful outcome to the Lebanese reconciliation talks now going on in Geneva. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begi Ben-'Ami recording] The U.S. official made it clear that the United States stands firmly behind the Israel-Lebanon agreement it helped to negotiate, and that it believes a continuing dialogue is in the interest of Lebanon no less than Israel. Mr Eagleburger also thinks that Israel can do much to help strengthen the Al-Jumayyil regime, through diplomatic action and by careful consideration of how an Israeli presence is managed in Lebanon. The U.S. official seemed to be hinting here at U.S. unease to the idea that Israel may decide to close the bridges across the Al-Awwali River, a possibility that has been mentioned in his talks with Israeli officials.

Although admitting to substantial differences between the United States and Syria on a number of issues in Lebanon, Mr Eagleburger said he believes it may yet prove possible to arrive at an agreement with the Syrians which would ensure a sovereign Lebanese Government controlling an area clear of all foreign troops. The United States, he said, intends to do all it can to see that a possible start to that process, the talks now under way in Geneva, will be successful.

What America wants is to get the foreigners out of Lebanon, and let the Lebanese run their country themselves. Talking about the attack on the U.S. and French troops in Beirut, Mr Eagleburger carefully phrased any references to possible Syrian involvement, saying that there was sufficient evidence to indicate Iranian

involvement, while it would be difficult to believe the events could not have taken place without the knowledge of some Syrian officials. The U.S. and Israel have a special relationship, he stressed, and his visit was aimed at finding ways to strengthen and improve this. He denied that U.S. relations with moderate Arab states need to be dangerous or detrimental to Israel. Looking ahead, the U.S. under secretary of state said America would continue to press President Reagan's 1 September Middle East peace initiative. The PLO is not the same organization it was a year ago, and is far less relevant, and he was optimistic that Jordan would now join the peace process, although there is still no formal confirmation of this from King Husayn. [end recording]

'Direct Contacts' To Resume

TA030558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0515 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Report by Arye Golan — recorded]

[Text] The continuation of direct contacts between Jerusalem and Washington is expected in another 1 and 1/2 months. Defense Minister Arens will go to New York in mid-December and it was assessed in Jerusalem yesterday that meetings will then be scheduled for him with U.S. Administration leaders in Washington. It should be emphasized that, up to this very moment, this matter has not yet been finalized.

In his talk with the prime minister yesterday the visiting U.S. diplomat said that President Reagan decided to tighten bilateral cooperation and coordination as well as to continue the talks soon and on a senior level. This is exactly the point emphasized in Jerusalem to the U.S. under secretary. There is no practical manifestation of the declarations made by the U.S. President and secretary of state on the importance of coordination between the United States and Israel.

In their meeting yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also spoke about the Soviet threat and Damascus' intention to take over Lebanon. An issue that was not raised in yesterday's talk was the Jordanian task force. With the financing of the project held up in Congress, Eagleburger refrained from raising this subject in his talk with the prime minister.

Today Eagleburger will have talks with defense leaders, beginning with a tete-a-tete with Defense Minister Arens. The two have been friends since Arens served as ambassador to Washington, where Eagleburger is considered one of Israel's good friends. The issues that will be discussed at the defense minister's office in Tel Aviv will include bilateral strategic and practical cooperation in the security-military sphere and U.S. aid to Israel. However, the Israeli interlocutors of the U.S. under secretary well know that he has come here to listen and form impressions, but not to conduct negotiations and wind up matters. There is no doubt that one of the major messages he will take back with him next week will be that Israel expects the U.S. Administration to make good on its solemn declarations on urgent need for closer bilateral cooperation.

'New Era' in Relations

TA030715 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — recorded]

[Text] President Reagan has invited Israel to resume the strategic dialogue; his envoy, Lawrence Eagleburger has reiterated the U.S. commitment to the Israeli-Lebanese agreement and an official Israeli spokesman has spoken of a new era in Jerusalem-Washington relations. The spokesman says that the United States has sobered up and understands that lack of cooperation may harm or may have already harmed it, and that an era of strategic coordination will now begin in this region and outside it as well.

The U.S. under secretary yesterday invited an Israeli ministerial delegation to come to Washington in the near future for a discussion on the theme of strategic cooperation. The details have not yet been determined. The invitation is from the Reagan administration, but it should be noted that Israel has been mentioning this idea to the Americans for some time now.

Despite the enthusiasm in Jerusalem it is not clear what is behind this, what is behind the idea of strategic cooperation. According to a government source, this could mean storing U.S. arms in Israeli territory, providing military bases to the 6th Fleet forces as necessary, and another example, a clear-cut clarification by Washington that a Soviet military intervention in Israel will entail a U.S. reaction. This is cooperation as Israelis see it, but there is no certainty that the U.S. Administration sees matters in exactly the same way. Since we are dealing with strategic coordination, let us note that a lot of time was devoted to reviewing Soviet activity in the region and in the entire world in the deliberations held with Eagleburger yesterday. Eagleburger described a situation of separation [nituq] between the superpowers. Efforts are currently underway for Shultz and Gromyko to meet in Europe, but the U.S. under secretary predicts a period of tension. His Israeli interlocutors, too, yesterday talked a great deal about the tight contacts between Damascus and Moscow. The fate of Israeli-U.S. cooperation in the Lebanese sphere at least depends to quite a degree on the results of the reconciliation conference in Geneva. Yesterday we noted the pessimistic reports sent from there by Israeli diplomat Yitzhaq Li'or; for the time being, however, Jerusalem knows nothing of an agreement by the conference participants to freeze the political [Israeli-Lebanese] accord. It should be noted that Al-Jumayyil's people asked that President Reagan reiterate this week the U.S. determination to prevent damage to the Israeli-Lebanese accord. However, it was decided in Washington that Lawrence Eagleburger rather than the President would do so and that he would make this declaration in the region itself.

Shamir Meets Visiting U.S. Attorneys General

TA021251 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1240 GMT 2 Nov 83

["Announcement by the Prime Minister Office Spokesman" — ITIM Headline]

[Text] Jerusalem, 2 Nov (ITIM) — The following was said by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning in a meeting with

a delegation of attorneys general from nine U.S. states headed by the attorney general from Kansas, Mr Robert Stephan:

"One of the great difficulties on the road to achieving peace in the region stems from the fact that totalitarian regimes which do not care about human lives exist in most countries bordering on Israel. Arab leaders publicly declare their readiness to sacrifice thousands of soldiers in the war against Israel, whereas Israel views the death of every soldier as a national tragedy.

"Syria is opposed in principle to any agreement with Israel, to any sign of peace."

Rosenne Modifies Support for Grenada Invasion

TA021333 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 2 Nov 83 p 2

["Exclusive report by U.S. based correspondent 'Uzi Benziman"]

[Text] Washington — Israeli Ambassador to the United States Me'ir Rosenne last night moderated his expression of support for the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

In a meeting with the press club in Washington, Rosenne said that Israel understands that Grenada is a vital U.S. interest. Israel well understands the U.S. attitude and its need to intervene in Grenada. Israel will express its official stand in the discussion which will open in the United Nations this week, the ambassador said.

Last week Me'ir Rosenne welcomed the U.S. decision to invade Grenada. Rosenne told our correspondents yesterday that his statement does not mean he backed off from his statement of last week.

Demonstration Supports U.S. Actions in Grenada

TA030608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] There was a demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv last night in support of the invasion of Grenada. Among those taking part were Likud Knesset members Beni Shalita and 'Aqiva Nof. The demonstrators called on the United States to exchange Russians captured in Grenada for Jews who have been sent to prison in the USSR.

UK Under Secretary Luce Supports Reagan Plan

TA021917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Britain is disappointed because none of the parties in the Middle East has agreed to open negotiations based on the Reagan plan. British Under Secretary Richard Luce this evening stated in Tel Aviv that he would also discuss this issue in Jordan and Egypt. He reiterated Britain's opposition to the settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Richard Luce also made it plain to his Israeli colleagues that his government takes a serious view of the arms sales to Argentina during the Falklands crisis.

Favors 'Increased Dialogue'

TA030808 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] Britain is interested in increased dialogue with Israel and in joint action to break the deadlock in the Middle East. Remarks to that effect were made yesterday by British Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce concluding a 2-day visit to Israel. Luce added that Britain sees the Reagan plan as a desirable point of departure for renewed negotiations in the region. Our correspondent Ilana Dayan cites the remarks by Richard Luce.

[Begin recording] [Luce — in English] We in Britain, and in Europe, must do what we can to help the President. We understand completely that one prerequisite for peace is the security of Israel. Equally we understand fully that that must be reconciled with the aspiration of the Palestinians to become an...

[Dayan, interrupting] We completely understand that a precondition for peace in the Middle East is Israel's security, Luce said, adding that Britain at the same time understands the other condition, the realization of the Palestinians' aspirations for self-determination. Merging these two conditions will lead to peace, and Britain and Europe must take part in the effort to achieve peace.

[Luce — in English] If we are going to be helpful in the Middle East we want to have this routine, regular dialogue. That does not mean to say that we are going to agree with each other on everything. Indeed, we may disagree. I will give one example; We do not agree with the policy of Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

[Dayan — translates and continues] These were the remarks of Richard Luce, the under secretary for foreign affairs, who served in this position from the end of 1981 until the middle of 1982, when he resigned together with Foreign Secretary Carrington in the wake of the Falklands affair. Last June, following the elections, he returned to office in the same position and yesterday in Tel Aviv he commented on the Argentine issue from the aspect of Israeli arms sent there.

[Luce — in English, picked up in midsentence] ...whether it is to the Israeli Government or to any other government with and on a normal relationship with us. We have expressed our very strong views about the sale of arms to the Argentines over the last few months.

[Dayan — translates and continues] Luce added that the Argentines have not ceased to demonstrate hostility in relations with Britain since the war. Luce added that he believes Jerusalem understood Britain's apprehension and will take it into consideration.

In Jerusalem Richard Luce met with Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir and from here he will leave for Jordan and Egypt for a visit aimed at exchanging views and attempting to

understand how the dangerous deadlock in the Middle East can be broken.

As for Lebanon, he said that the multinational force, in which the 100 British soldiers also serve, fulfills its duties in maintaining the cease-fire and in aiding the Lebanese central administration. We want to help, he said, but the solution should be found by the local sides.

[Luce — in English] In our view, the withdrawal of foreign forces is a very important condition of a process...

[Dayan, interrupting] In our opinion, Luce said, the withdrawal of foreign forces is an important condition in the process and I was glad to hear that Israel wants to pull all its forces out of Lebanon as soon as possible. [end recording]

Meets Bethlehem Mayor, Comments

TA031122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] This morning Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce met two Judea and Samaria personages in the British Consulate in East Jerusalem. One of these personages, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, said at the end of the meeting that he had briefed the British under secretary on the situation in the territories, explained the danger inherent in the Israeli settlements there, and requested British aid for the residents of the territories.

The British under secretary said at the end of the meetings that he wanted to meet with the inhabitants of the territories since, in his opinion, it is important to meet all parties and hear all opinions.

[Begin Luce recording — in English] I, very especially, wanted to have the chance to talk to a cross representation of leaders from the Arab-Palestinian community... [end recording]

In the afternoon, Luce said, I will meet with the Jordanian Government leaders in Amman. Luce refrained from reacting to the report that the military authorities prevented Bassam ash-Shak'ah from meeting with him.

Arens Interviewed on U.S., Syria, Lebanon

TA022020 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Interview with Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari and military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky; moderated by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir on the weekly Moqed program — live, in the studio]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] What does Israel intend to do if the parties currently deliberating in Geneva should decide to abrogate the Israeli-Lebanese accord, signed about 6 months ago?

[Arens] I do not believe we should declare in advance what we would do. Moreover, I hope we will not reach such a state. As you know, we are a nation that believes it is necessary to observe international commitments. We expect the Lebanese Government to observe that undertaking. I know it is under pressure not to maintain this commitment, but I hope it will withstand that pressure.

[Shlonsky] Is the IDF stay in southern Lebanon dependent on the Israeli-Lebanese accord's validity?

[Arens] Not directly, but I would say that the possibility that we will one day leave southern Lebanon and transfer control of that area to the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese Army, on which we will be able to depend and be sure that there are no terrorist acts from Lebanon in the Galilee — this certainly has to do with the existence of a Lebanese Government that will observe and honor its part of the agreement.

[Ya'ari] Mr Minister, do you suppose a development may occur in Lebanon that will lead first to the establishment of a new cabinet — which will, say, be acceptable to most of the elements in Lebanon — and that such a cabinet will also honor the Israeli-Lebanese accord? According to at least one report we got this evening, Camille Sham'un himself suggested in Geneva that the agreement continue to be frozen.

[Arens] As you know, the agreement is currently not being implemented, but we expect to reach conditions under which it will be possible to implement it. We expect the Lebanese Government to reach such conditions also. By saying so, I am not saying that I think that this is actually what will happen, or that we are placing all our chips on this actually happening. We would like this to take place, and this is the optimal solution in terms of our interests.

[Ya'ari] It was officially reported in Geneva this evening that the first clause of the six that are being discussed has already been approved, and it says that Lebanon will honor all its legal undertakings as part of its membership in the Arab League, as a founding member. This means: The Arab League's collective security charter. If I recall correctly — and I believe I am not mistaken here — we were engaged in a very long argument with Egypt concerning the question of the priority the peace agreement had versus the commitment mentioned above. What about Lebanon?

[Arens] There is a certain affinity or similarity with the problem that arose in the course of the negotiations with Egypt. I think it would be worthwhile to emphasize that in this case, a very firm attempt has been made by the Syrians to sabotage the peace process in the entire region. They have been trying to demonstrate, to prove that they will not let any country enter into negotiations, or peaceful relations, with Israel. I think it is very important that they do not succeed in this.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Minister, I would like to ask you: What position is the United States adopting on the Israeli-Lebanese accord? After all, the reports arriving from Geneva mention various U.S.-proposed compromises, that perhaps the United States would suggest either suspending or freezing the agreement — at any rate, limiting the scope of its validity. What is its position, and what would you expect of the United States in this respect?

[Arens] First of all, as you know the United States is not participating in this reconciliation conference. What I expect is almost a sine qua non of the United States, as a country that serves as a model for observing commitments: Thus I cannot conceive that the United States would lend a hand to revoking [nesiga] undertakings the Lebanese Government had taken upon itself in an accord to which the United States was a witness and a partner in the negotiations that led to it. Therefore, I believe the statements made countless number of times by spokesmen for the U.S. Government, and I also believe the President, that they insist that the Lebanese Government maintain and honor the 17 May agreement signed with the Israeli Government.

[Ya'ari] What then, Mr Minister, are the conditions under which Israel will see fit to carry out a withdrawal from southern Lebanon?

[Arens] This is something that has been discussed several times in the past. Our conditions are unequivocal: We must have a state of affairs in southern Lebanon in which we feel secure that once the IDF leaves and goes back to the Galilee, crosses the border, there will be no terrorist acts perpetrated in the Galilee from southern Lebanon.

[Ya'ari] With whom would you like to have such an arrangement [hesder]?

[Arens] I have already said that the optimal solution, as far as we are concerned, would be an arrangement with the Lebanese Government, that it take upon itself the same commitments it made in the agreement. If this is not so, if there is no government capable or ready to do so, we will seek other solutions.

[Shlonsky] Can there be a situation in which it is impossible to find an alternative — either the Lebanese Army or other forces in the area — to undertake that mission? What will happen then?

[Arens] I hope we find that. We will take action to try to find an alternative — perhaps even build one, in time. We shall see. We will not leave before we are sure.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Minister, how does Israel plan to behave if the forecasts are true that the Syrians and terrorists might resume their assault in the direction of Beirut, and the U.S Marines again find themselves under fire. Will Israel again demonstrate the same certain degree of passivity as it evinced in the not-so-distant past?

[Arens] I would not call our stay passive. You could also call the conduct of all the countries of the world passive. Each country acts in its own interest. We are trying to work for our interests, and our dominant or nearly sole interest is peace for the Galilee: the safety and well-being of the residents of the Galilee. We are taking action to guarantee it. In certain cases, if we find that we share common goals with the United States, if there is readiness to coordinate policy, we are prepared to conduct talks on coordinating policies.

[Ahime'ir] Yet I asked about another front, Beirut.

[Arens] What I said is applicable to the Beirut environs just as it is applicable to every other place.

[Shlonsky] Has the possibility of cooperation with the IDF, should fighting around Beirut resume, already been broached with the Americans?

[Arens] Nothing explicit has taken place on these issues, in this sphere.

[Ahime'ir] Has the United States previously submitted a request that we activate the Air Force if firing resumes, in connection with past flareups?

[Arens] There has been no such request.

[Ya'ari] What is your reaction to the voices emanating from Washington expressing disappointment because in the eyes of the United States, Israel is showing some slackness [rifyon] and is no longer being firm and adamant regarding Lebanon. Kissinger, as we saw on television, talked about it; and in fact even President Reagan said in Congress: We are in Beirut, but this is also an Israeli interest.

[Arens] Yes, but President Reagan did not mention that slackness you quoted Kissinger as having talked about.

[Ya'ari] I think others have attributed this remark to him.

[Arens] The United States is a large country, and you will undoubtedly be able to hear different voices. Sometimes the voices that talk about slackness, so to speak, today, said something completely different in the course of the Peace for Galilee operation. I would say that in general, I believe Israel might perhaps be at the top of the list of countries that show no lackadaisical attitudes, whose citizens are prepared to do much for the country and for the interests of the country. Therefore, I believe that anyone who mentions slackness in connection with Israel is simply mistaken, or misleading or, alternatively, he does not know Israel.

[Ahime'ir] How, then, would you interpret this talk about lack of determination, passivity in Israel, alleging that Israel has lost its initiative, its resourcefulness, and is sitting with its hands folded. We read this in articles published in the United States, whose ramifications reach Israel. Why are people currently attributing these traits to us?

[Arens] I think this is natural.

[Ahime'ir] Is it?

[Arens] Yes, of course. The United States presently has Marines in Beirut who are facing really dangerous — as we have unfortunately witnessed — and no doubt there are many who would like someone to come to the rescue, come and help. [as heard] Perhaps the moment a catastrophe occurs, the question is popped as to why no one comes, why the French and the British did not come.

or Israel. But we know that we cannot provide first aid even to our friends in the world, not even in the Middle East.

[Ya'ari] Can I infer then that you, Mr Minister, would not rush and be happy to dispatch aircraft or ground forces to the Beirut area in case the U.S. Marines encounter real trouble? Some scenarios depict this as quite feasible.

[Arens] I did not say this either. Let me repeat what I have just said. There is considerable parallelism [hafifa] in targets between us and the United States. In my opinion, this state of affairs can render possible the coordination of activities or policy toward the attainment of common goals.

[Ya'ari] Do you mean coordination of actions, or also joint action?

[Arens] I mean policy, for after all actions are derived from policy. In the past we have more than once offered political coordination between Israel and the United States in the Middle East, particularly in (?southern) Lebanon. You said: eager [sasim], well, in the past the Americans were never too eager or enthusiastic about having such coordination. If there is a readiness on their part for such coordination, for the coordination of policy, we will be prepared to talk about it.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Minister, tomorrow you will meet with U.S. Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. I gather from what you have said so far that you are not too happy with the degree of cooperation between Israel and the United States. I seem to understand that you have hinted that there is a potential for this, but that it is not being made use of. Only recently the Americans turned down an Israeli offer of aid for the Marines who were attacked in Beirut. How do you regard this American lack of desire to cooperate with us, although — according to what you have hinted at, if I read you correctly — the potential is there?

[Arens] I am not hinting. I think it is obvious that when two parties have shared goals, there are greater chances of achieving them if they act jointly, in coordination. At the same time, I believe we all understand the U.S. desire to recoil, their misgivings, their not wanting to overly demonstrate identification [hizdahut yeter] with Israel, while wanting to maintain good ties with the Arab world. Consequently, the coordination that could have been in the past in fact never materialized.

[Shlonsky] But if we take a look at what is happening around us: The United States has strategic cooperation and military maneuvers with Egypt and Sudan, a special task force in Jordan, and training in Oman, while Israel is virtually ostracized, and there are no ties?

[Arens] Israel is not ostracized. I was Israel's ambassador in Washington and was never boycotted. Some people said that the Israeli ambassador to Washington was the most important ambassador there.

[Shlonsky] I agree, but I am talking about the field of strategic cooperation?

[Arens] Not even there. I think the relations between Israel and the United States in general, and in the military sphere in particular, are possibly the broadest, in terms of scope, the United States has with any country. All you have to do is take a look at the aid!

[Shlonsky] How would you explain the fact that they did not come to request aid in the medical sphere, and that there is a refusal to establish emergency warehouses here, in contravention of what had been talked about in the past?

[Arens] It is not up to me to furnish explanations for all the things that were not carried out, and I have already pointed to something that I believe every Israeli knows: There is a certain reticence [reti'a], a certain cautiousness and lack of desire on the part of the United States to identify too much with Israel in the Middle East.

[Ahime'ir] Prof Arens, at one time the strategic memorandum of understanding reached by your predecessor and U.S. Secretary of Defense Mr Weinberger was suspended. Would you like to see this memorandum of understanding renewed?

[Arens] I think that if the issue at hand is the resumption of the memorandum of understanding, or a new memorandum of understanding, this will have to come at the initiative of the United States. It will not come from us.

[Ya'ari] Would you support resuming talks with the Americans on the memorandum of understanding in the same framework as in the days of your forerunner, with a rather sharp anti-Soviet tilt?

[Arens] I do not think we should stipulate any conditions for the framework. If the U.S. Administration proposes that we conduct talks on strategic coordination, I am sure we will accept the offer and hold such talks.

[Ahime'ir] There is another issue currently pending between us and the United States, although it has been shelved to a certain degree because the Congress Appropriations Committee froze the allocation for establishing a Jordanian task force to be trained by the United States. Why is Israel opposed to this?

[Arens] It seems to me that this does not need to be explained to an Israeli. Jordan is in a state of war with us. It is a country which has engaged in more than one war with us. Jordan is a country using weapons it received from the United States in the wars against Israel. It has a long border with Israel which lies only several dozen kilometers away from our centers of population. Therefore, we are fearful of any strengthening of its military might.

[Ya'ari] Are we asking that the Americans impose any limitations on this task force — such as during the time when they received the Hawk missiles and we insisted that these be stationary antiaircraft Hawk missiles — or compensation in light of this strengthening of the Jordanian side?

[Arens] At this stage we have not conducted any talks on this issue. We have announced that we do not welcome it. If the Americans want to hold talks with us on this issue, we will be ready to discuss it.

[Ya'ari] Otherwise, would this be an issue for confrontation with the administration?

[Arens] It is not a matter of confrontation; we simply say that we estimate that this presents another threat to our security.

[Shlonsky] Perhaps we should move over to another sphere, to the Syrians. Since the end of the Lebanon war, we have been hearing about an increasing Syrian military buildup and a deepening Soviet involvement. Do you not think that we are at present closer to a violent confrontation with Syria than several years ago, or on the eve of the Lebanon war?

[Arens] It is hard to tell with Syria and with Al-Asad. Al-Asad is an absolute leader, one of the most brutal leaders in the world who is willing to use force against his citizens. Of course, if he found the circumstances propitious, he would be willing to use force against us. He is building a big army and he has declared his objective of reaching a strategic balance with us, that is, to achieve military strength equivalent to ours. If we are not waging a war with Syria now, this stems from the fact that we deter them. In other words, when Damascus sits down to consider, they reach the conclusion that this would not be worth their while. As long as we succeed in maintaining this situation, they will not start a war. I hope we are able to deter them in the future.

[Ya'ari] Does this Syrian buildup, or maybe the status Syria has acquired in the wake of the Peace for Galilee Operation, not condemn us to try and find channels of communications with Damascus to remove the danger of war?

[Arens] We are not conducting a dialogue with Damascus at present, not because we are not willing to search for channels of communication. After all, Damascus is not that far away from Jerusalem. This unequivocally stems from the fact that, for the time being, there is no willingness whatsoever on the part of Damascus to enter into a dialogue with us.

[Ya'ari] Have you looked into this possibility?

[Arens] Yes, of course. We also know the reasons for this. Al-Asad is playing the role of the single Arab leader who still remains faithful to the Palestinians and to the Arab world. He wants to lead the Arab world in a war against Israel. Thus, he is strengthening his position at home, or at least he thinks that he is strengthening his rule this way. We know that this is the principal motive of dictators, to strengthen their rule at home.

[Ya'ari] Were any attempts on our part to enter into a dialogue with the Syrians rejected?

[Arens] We have a simple but very important issue, and that is the subject of the prisoners of war. Three of our soldiers are held prisoner in Damascus. There are almost 300 Syrian prisoners in Israel. We are ready to exchange them, even tomorrow; we are even willing to enter into a dialogue tomorrow to achieve this exchange, but there is no willingness on their part, we have not heard anything from them.

[Ya'ari] I read the Arab press and I read that you tried to send Mr Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, to meet with the Syrian president's brother, Rif'at al-Asad, and maybe with the chief of staff, Hikmat ash-Shihabi. Would you specifically comment on these reports in the Arab press?

[Arens] These are completely unfounded.

[Ahime'ir] Earlier, when you mentioned the prisoners of war held by Syria, you said that there has actually been no progress in this sphere. What about the prisoners held by the terrorists? Has there been any progress in these negotiations?

[Arens] It is known that we are ready to hold contacts through the Red Cross, and we have conducted such contacts in an attempt to bring these sons back home. I would rather not elaborate. There is reason to hope that progress will be made.

[Shlonsky] Do we have any data about the health of the prisoners held in the Tripoli area?

[Arens] As far as we know they are in good health. As known, for a time we did not know anything about the prisoners held by Jibril, and they could not be visited. We made progress when permission was given to visit them, and they are now being visited on a regular basis. This is what the situation is today.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Minister, I would now like to go over to the defense establishment and the economic sphere, the economy now being topmost on our agenda. In your capacity as defense minister, can you promise that the country will enjoy the same degree of security with less money and a smaller budget for the defense establishment you are in charge of?

[Arens] It is a rule of thumb in economics that nothing is free, and if we allocate fewer funds to security, then there will be less security. This is a central political and public question on which the Israeli people must decide. We have economic problems, difficult ones. They may be sufficiently difficult to force us to reduce the level of security. We agreed to a certain cut in the defense budget for the current year, and we are carrying out this cut. We agreed on cuts for the next 2 years. We will present the implications of these cuts to the Cabinet for its consideration, so that the ministers realize the extent to which security will be reduced in the wake of these cuts.

[Shlonsky] Elements in the IDF have in the last few days indicated that the cuts in the defense establishment exceed 16 billion Israeli shekels in the next 3 years. They argue that in fact the cut is double. Do you subscribe to this assessment?

[Arens] Figures do not lie, and the figures are known. We agreed to submit to the Cabinet the implications of a cut equivalent to $200-300 million in the budget, quoted in shekels. This is the figure in question and its implications are quite significant.

[Shlonsky] Do the cuts in this year's budget and that of the next 2 years mean a smaller army?

[Arens] There is no doubt about it. We would like to delude ourselves that we could cut the fat, that is, reduce the defense budget without reducing the level of security, but this is impossible. I must say that the IDF is a good army. I think it is the most effective army in the world, certainly one of the most efficient ones. This is not an apparatus full of fat which can be pared down in order to save money without adversely affecting security. A significant reduction in the defense budget ultimately means a smaller IDF.

[Shlonsky] This may be beneficial for the IDF, to be smaller, more effective and to be able to take more initiative.

[Arens] Smaller is not necessarily faster. You mentioned the Syrian buildup. It is not just Syria that is building up in our area. I would say than an unprecedented buildup is taking place around us, in Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. Therefore, none of us can say that a smaller army is good for security. A smaller army ultimately means lowering the security level we now enjoy. Due to the economic situation, this may be inevitable for a certain period of time.

[Ahime'ir] How do you regard the proposals suggested by Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad, not with regard to the defense establishment, but rather to other sectors of the Israeli economy?

[Arens] Which suggestions do you mean?

[Ahime'ir] Various cuts such as in the sphere of social welfare, imposing an education tax, cutting social services. In short, the country may be marching toward a certain recession. How do you see this?

[Arens] As far as I am concerned, these are not suggestions. I have known the finance minister for many years and our relations are close. We discussed the economic situation before he was appointed finance minister and also later. I certainly agree with him that a serious economic problem lies ahead of us. I believe that we will overcome it, but it will require efforts and moves, one of them being a cut in the state budget and in public expenditures; otherwise this will be impossible.

[Shlonsky] Will you support demands made recently by IDF officers to raise their salary? They claim that their salaries have seriously eroded.

[Arens] As you know, I am not an economist but an engineer. My own economic analysis tells me that the most outstanding fact as far as our economic weakness is concerned is the current level of salaries in Israel. I think that, in general, it can be said that we are not producing the equivalent of what we are earning. The difference finds expression in inflation, printing money, loans, and an ever-increasing debt. This is not the time to raise the salary of any sector. Of course, I would like to raise the salaries of IDF personnel, to hire and keep good people, but not at this time.

[Ahime'ir] I would like to go to another issue called: motivation. It seems to me that you have been visiting kibbutzim recently; you visited Hulda and Na'an. In your capacity as defense minister, are you bothered by the level of motivation of kibbutz youths in everything pertaining to serving in the IDF?

[Arens] Yes, I am. For a long time it was a tradition to regard the Kibbutz society as an elite, certainly as far as the contribution this society made to the security of the State of Israel was concerned. We all know this. They were officers and pilots and participated in the IDF's select units. I would not say that you would not find kibbutz youths in these units; you will find them there today also. However, not in the same relative number as in the past. This presents a warning light to the defense establishment and I think also to the kibbutz society.

[Ahime'ir] Why does this happen, sir?

[Arens] This question should be posed to the kibbutz society and members. This is a topic for discussion between the defense establishment and the kibbutzim. It seems to me there is room for both sides to work on this.

[Shlonsky] Do you think that the Lebanon war seriously affected the motivation of kibbutz youths?

[Arens] I do not know. It is hard for me to believe this. After all, the war in Lebanon was the sixth war of the State of Israel. Almost all the wars were surrounded by arguments, debates, and disputes. Still, it seems to me that the kibbutzim also regarded these arguments, debates, and disputes as the reason for a lower motivation. In my contacts with kibbutz members, I felt that they were sorry about this, that they want to change this, and that they do not justify this situation.

[Ahime'ir] Are you worried about this situation? Has there been a real drop or weakening in the contribution of kibbutz youths to the IDF?

[Arens] I am worried because, just like any other Israeli, I would like the best Israeli men to be part of the IDF. Therein lies our strength. After all, ours is a small army and if it reaches supremacy and a high level, it is only as a result of the supremacy and high level of the people in the army, of the officers and the soldiers in the select units. Therefore, any erosion in this level or anything liable to erode this level constitutes a source of concern, and we want to correct it. At the same time, I must add in the same breath that anybody visiting the IDF and the select units today can only marvel at the high level, the motivation, the talents and qualifications of the people serving in these units.

[Ya'ari] Mr Minister, as a followup I would dwell on another subject and say that in certain aspects of our presence in Lebanon, it sometimes seems that you are turning back the wheel. There has been a change — not to mention another word — in the strength of our relations with the Christians. Also, tonight, you did not talk as your predecessor used to about the withdrawal of the Syrians from Lebanon as a prerequisite. You only mention the sole objective of peace for the Galilee. Can we infer from this

that you are having second thoughts about the expanded context of the Peace for Galilee Operation?

[Arens] Not at all. Only a few days ago in the Knesset, in reply to a motion to the agenda, I said that those who do not accept the explanations of Israeli spokesmen and ministers can look at what is being said by U.S. leaders: President Reagan, and I also quoted Senate Minority Leader Senator Byrd. Both of them currently specifically state what we say and know: The first duty of a government is to guarantee the well-being and security of its citizens. Without the Peace for Galilee Operation, we could not guarantee the well-being of the Galilee inhabitants. Anybody casting doubts on this had better visit Qiryat Shemona. I was there 2 or 3 weeks ago. You could not hear even one man there proposing to withdraw from Lebanon.

[Shlonsky] Did you support all the stages of the war in Lebanon during your tenure as ambassador to the United States?

[Arens] Of course I did. If you want me to say that I supported each and every tactical move, I cannot do it because I was not involved. However, in my opinion, there was no other alternative, even in retrospect, and looking now from a certain perspective. Can any country live with a situation in which terrorists beyond the border operate and attack our population on this side of the border?

[Shlonsky] But this war had objectives ranging beyond that.

[Arens] The objective of this war is in its name: Peace for the Galilee. There are different ways to achieve peace for the Galilee; we talked about this at the beginning of the interview. If a government is established in Lebanon capable of guaranteeing that terrorist attacks will not be launched from Lebanese territory, this will certainly be instrumental in reaching the objective of bringing peace to the Galilee, and the IDF will not have to be stationed in the Galilee [as heard]. Of course, all of us want this, if possible. As long as this is not possible, the IDF will remain in southern Lebanon.

[Ya'ari] Is that the reason it was right to go all the way to Beirut?

[Arens] I told you, it is not worth discussing each and every move, because I was not party to the discussions. Let me put it this way: In every war, if you want to carry out what is called in medical jargon a postmortem, you will always find things which, looking back, you would have done differently. The question you should ask yourself today is: Would we be in a better situation today if 'Arafat were still sitting in Beirut? I think you will find very few Israelis who would say that it would be better, and I am certainly not one of them.

[Ahime'ir] This evening, however, you cannot announce that the IDF will soon leave southern Lebanon. Have the conditions not yet been created?

[Arens] To my regret, I cannot announce that. But I can announce a much more important thing, a thing that is known to every Israeli citizen: There is peace in the Galilee; there is no terror in the Galilee.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Defense Minister, I thank you for coming to our studio.

Arens Requests Protection of POWs in Lebanon

TA031151 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1145 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] In view of the outbreak of fighting around the refugee camps in Tripoli where the PLO holds six Israeli soldiers captive, Defense Minister Arens has again declared that Israel views the PLO and its leaders directly responsible for the well-being of our soldiers. Israel demands [tova'at] that they take all measures necessary to ensure the lives, well-being, and safety of the six captive IDF soldiers.

War With Syria Considered 'Almost Inevitable'

TA021435 Tel Aviv Ha'olam Haze in Hebrew 2 Nov 83 p 8

[Text] Political observers think that an Israeli-Syrian war is almost inevitable. The observers point to the fact that Syria's and Israel's "landlords" are interested in such a war, which will frustrate the reconciliation attempts in Lebanon and will finalize its division between the blocs, when each superpower's share will be decided by its satellite country's achievements in the war.

Incidents on Balfour Declaration Anniversary

TA030727 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Report by Alon Disqin — recorded]

[Text] There is noticeable calm in Judaea and Samaria this morning following a week of incidents which culminated with the incidents of yesterday, the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Last night security forces lifted the curfew from the Ad-Duhayshah and 'Askar refugee camps and from the Nabulus Casbah. The curfews were imposed there in order to prevent possible disturbances. The curfews in the Balatah, Al-'Arrub, and Qalandiyah refugee camps are continuing.

Yesterday evening two tourists were slightly injured when the tourist bus in which they were traveling near Rachel's Tomb on the outskirts of Bethlehem was stoned. In Nabulus a border police patrol was attacked yesterday evening. There were no casualties in this incident and the attackers were dispersed with the help of tear gas. Another bus was attacked in the Nabulus area and some of its windshields were smashed.

Summing up the incidents that took place on the Balfour Declaration anniversary, security sources assessed that this year the inciting elements in the territories were not as successful as in the past, mainly due to the decrease in the power of the terrorist organizations, of the PLO, among the Arab public in the territories.

CEAO Communique Issued at Meeting in Niamey

AB311815 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 31 Oct 83

[Final Communique issued in Niamey on 31 October on the ninth summit of the West African Economic Community, held in Niamey on 29 October — read by Secretary General Moussa Ngom]

[Text] The ninth conference of heads of state of the West African Economic Community [CEAO] was held in Niamey on 29 October 1983 under the chairmanship of His Excellency General Seyni Kountche, president of the Supreme Military Council, head of state of Niger, and current chairman of the conference. Those who participated in this conference are: for the Ivory Coast, His Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the republic; for the republic of Upper Volta, His Excellency Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state; for the Republic of Mali, His Excellency General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People and president of the republic; for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, His Excellency Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state; and for the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Abdou Diouf, president of the republic.

Attending as an observer for the People's Republic of Benin was His Excellency General Mathieu Kerekou, president of the republic. For the Republic of Togo, Mr Walla Koffi, minister of planning, industry, and administrative reforms, represented General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding-chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the republic.

The conference received messages of support from (Ahmed Mohamed Ali), chairman of the Islamic Bank for Development; (Badem el-Boumedine), director general of the Kuwaiti Fund; (Deyni Tay), vice president of the African Development Bank; Mr (Nouir), deputy director general of Central Fund for Economic Cooperation of the French Republic; Pierre-Claver Baleba, United Nations Development Program administrator for Africa; and David Hopper, vice president of the World Bank.

The conference recorded with satisfaction the progress accomplished in achieving the objectives assigned to the community, especially in the fields of trade, communal projects, and village water development projects. The communal projects which have been created since the fourth conference of heads of state in Bamako 1978 and the village water development project are being implemented thanks to financing obtained under special conditions according to a scheduled timetable. Consultative agreements for the African Institute for Higher Studies in Management, CESAG, in Dakar; the Advanced School for Textile Industries, ESITEX, of Segou; the Higher Institute of Fishing of Nouadhibou; and the Regional Center for Solar Energy (CRES), of Bamako, were adopted by the conference. These institutions are open to all West African states.

The heads of state expressed satisfaction with the sense of solidarity among members of the community and the increasing credibility of their organization both on the African and international scenes, which has contributed to the great support it enjoys from financial institutions concerned with development as well as from international organizations.

On the village and pastoral water development projects, the conference decided to give 10 percent of the total project cost as an advance to speed up the implementation of the projects, which some states have already begun. The conference adopted a proposal to establish a community company for goats and cattle with headquarters in Bobo Dioulasso in the Republic of Upper Volta. To ensure maximum profitability of this company, a specialized branch will be set up in Dakar. The position of chief of project is reserved for the Republic of Ivory Coast.

Within the framework of the solidarity which marks the CEAO's socioeconomic relations, the conference decided to vote 800 million CFA francs to states which are victims of the drought for the reconstitution of their (?agriculture). This amount was taken from the community's credit investments and guarantee fund. A wise investment policy will enable the community to finance its own recurrent budget, to improve its return from its investments, and to finance feasibility studies of profitable projects and equipment. To this end, funds will be invested on the decision of the board of governors in order to rigorously implement [words indistinct] on the basis of profitability and maximum security for financial institutions and member states or for big international financial institutions outside our subregion.

The conference decided to fix the annual endowment of the capital of the Community Development and Solidarity Fund [FOSIDEC] at 1 billion CFA francs for the 1984 fiscal year. The conference adopted the proposal of the CEAO ministerial conference and the FOSIDEC Board of Governors to thank the secretary general for his efficiency in managing the community's affairs during the past year. The conference adopted the recurrent budget and the Community Development Fund for 1984. It appointed members for the arbitation court and auditors for the community.

Responding to the Conakry appeal of the sixth conference of heads of state of the Ecowas, which met from 26 to 31 May 1983, the conference reaffirms the full and total membership of the CEAO in the Ecowas and their adherence to the Ecowas principles, especially the establishment of a customs union and the free movement of goods and peoples of member states. It considers that the existence of CEAO is not an obstacle to the implementation of the decisions of the Ecowas and stresses that the experience acquired by the CEAO in the field of subregional cooperation should be consolidated and placed at the disposal of the Ecowas to improve its services. It asserts that the community has actively cooperated with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa within the framework of the mandate assigned to it by the Ecowas conference in Conakry with a view to finding suitable solutions to the problem of coexistence of organizations of the subregion.

The conference sends a message of gratitude to President Seyni Kountche for the remarkable and efficient way he conducted CEAO affairs during his term of office. The conference congratulates the chairman and members of the council of ministers as well as experts of member states of the community for the

quality of their work, which has enabled the community to consolidate its achievements, and for the forcefulness with which they carried out their projects. The conference also congratulates Moussa Ngom, secretary general of the CEAO, as well as all his aides for their dynamism and devotion, and their keen sense of duty. The heads of state and government encourage the council of ministers, the general secretariat, and experts of the community in their present efforts to give priority to the needs of the people, especially in the field of rural water development.

The conference decided to entrust the chairmanship of the community for the 1983-84 period to His Excellency General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic of Malian People and president of the Republic of Mali. The 10th conference of heads of state of the community will be held in Bamako in October 1984.

The heads of state specifically thank all friendly countries, inter-African and international organizations, and financial institutions concerned with development for their important and decisive contributions for the technical and financial achievement of community projects as well as the technical assistance placed at the disposal of the general secretariat [words indistinct]. At the end of their meeting, the heads of state and governments of the Republic of Ivory Coast, the Republic of Upper Volta, the Republic of Mali, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Senegal, the People's Republic of Benin, and the representative of the president of the Republic of Togo, thanked their brother and friend, Gen Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state of Niger, members of the Supreme Military Council, and the government and the courageous people of Niger for the special warm reception and friendly atmosphere they enjoyed during their stay in Niamey. Issued in Niamey on 31 October 1983.

Sudan's Mubarak Opens Meeting of African States
JN022053 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak this evening opened the meetings of the Egyptian, Zairian, Central African, and Ugandan foreign ministers. In his speech at the opening session, Mubarak conveyed President Numayri's greetings to the governments and peoples of the countries participating in the meeting and pointed out the historical relations which bind this group of countries. He said that the deepening of cooperation between these countries constitutes a base for political, economic, and social activities in them.

Mubarak said that this meeting will deepen and strengthen cooperation. He explained that the natural resources in these countries are not yet properly exploited. He called for finding a formula to expedite measures that enable these countries to exploit their resources. He said that these countries' efforts must concentrate on the continuing economic problems which are facing the region and the continent. He added that the Lagos economic summit has laid down the base for economic cooperation strategy among the OAU countries. He explained that the efforts of these countries in this field will be a model to be followed by other African countries. He called on the African countries to join these countries with regard to economic and political cooperation.

The head of the Zairian delegation spoke about the political and economic problems which are facing the region, explaining that the application of the Lagos plan will help in solving many problems. The head of the Central African delegation said that the current meeting constitutes an important step toward cooperation between the African countries. He touched on the war in Chad, stressing that it hampers Chad's development plans. The meeting will continue its work tomorrow morning.

LIBYA

Janzur Citizens Protest UK Maneuvers in Egypt

LD021914 Tripoli JANA in English 1740 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 27, Nov 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A huge demonstration came out, this morning, in the city of Janzur in protest against the provocative manoeuvres carried by the colonialist British forces on Egyptian territories. The masses participating in this demonstration brought out a statement condemning the fascist agent regime in Egypt which allowed the British colonialist forces to consecrate Egyptian soil and dishonour Arabs. Confirming that the Egyptian people who bore 'Abd an-Nasir, Arabi, Mustapha Kamil and got rid of the traitor As-Sadat, is capable of settling accounts with the enemy of the masses such as Husni Mubarak and his agent regime. The statement said that the savage imperialist attack carried out against the Arab nation would not have taken place had the Arab nation been united. The masses confirmed their total readiness to defend freedom everywhere and called upon freedom loving Egyptians and Egypt's dynamic forces to rid Egypt of reactionary, fascist agent regime.

Bulgarian Minister Signs Committee Minutes

LD030339 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 27, Nov 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The 14th Sessions minutes of the Libyan-Bulgarian joint committee were initialed in Tripoli last night. The secretary of the General People's Committee for Land Reclamation and Agrarian Reform Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah signed the minutes on behalf of the Libyan delegation. Bulgarian and the minister of foreign trade signed for Bulgaria. [sentence as received] Minutes of this meeting stipulates the bilateral development and cooperation in various agricultural, industrial tansport, maritime communication, health sectors, trade exchange, and scientific and technical cooperation.

Jabir Receives Trade Minister

LD030016 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, received Khristo Khristov, the Bulgarian minister of foreign trade, who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

Weekly Blames U.S. Administration for Bombings

PM020918 Tripoli Az-Zahf Al-Akhdar in Arabic 24 Oct 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The Rest Will Follow"]

[Excerpt] Now, after the two massive explosions in the U.S. Marines' headquarters and in the French forces' headquarters in Beirut — unparalleled since the Vietnam war, according to a U.S. politician — the ordinary American people have every right to cry out loud in Reagan's face and to ask bitterly what U.S. interests were served by the flagrant and direct U.S. intervention in Lebanon. What fruit has the United States harvested? It has only sunk deeper into the Lebanese quagmire and has not pulled the Marines out of it except as corpses in coffins. The American people must realize that their President Reagan has done everything to satisfy his arrogance of power and his lust for domination, bloody coercion, and satanic hegemony over all the peoples of the world, spilling American blood for no reason other than his own megalomania and his empty pride complex.

After the bombing of the U.S. Marines headquarters in Lebanon,we expect the American people to demonstrate their fury by toppling the Reagan terrorist administration as a punishment for the American lives lost in Lebanon, just as they brought down Lyndon Johnson for his direct involvement in Vietnam.

The American people must make it clear to all future administrations that people have a right to live in peace and security and that people, however weak they may be, must command the rspect of the big and the strong. The sun does not shine only on the United States and the globe is not an American toy or satellite. If the U.S. Administrations do not understand this, then the peoples of the world will be compelled to use with the United States a language which it understands very well — the language of legitimate revolutionary violence. This is a people's prerogative. For example, nobody in the whole world can deny that the Lebanese people have a right to resist the foreign invaders of their territory. The U.S. Administration alone is to blame for that horrific explosion which has, according to initial estimates, claimed at least 150 lives, not to mention the hundreds wounded and scores missing.

Reagan, the feeble actor, international charlatan, and creator of hotbeds of terrorist tension in the world, and his administration are to blame for white American flesh being blow to pieces by bombs in Lebanon. The Lebanese cannot be blamed because they did not cross seas and oceans to go and do that kind of thing in the United States. If Reagan persists in his mad obstinacy and in his aggressive course in the region then he should expect more suicide operations by commandos similar to the operation mounted against the U.S. Marines. It is this U.S. aggressive course, destructive to the Arab nation, which has bred an angry new Arab generation which will avenge the Arab nation's martyrs who fell as a result of the barbaric and bestial crusader-Zionist assault on the Arab homeland.

Editor Views Israeli Reconnaissance Over Gulf

LD021655 Tripoli JANA in English 1624 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 27, Nov 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — JANA's correspondent in Beirut has reported that Israeli Air Force carries out continuous reconnaissance flights over the Arab Gulf region and the oilfield in complete coordination with AWACS planes deployed in the area. The agency's correspondent has learnt that some states in the area have complained about the Israeli air control which puts them in an embarrassing situation if the presence of Israeli Air Force in their airspace is disclosed. The U.S. Administration used all means of pressure and terror available for the benefit of the Israeli enemy including the continued presence of enemy's Air Force in the

airspace of that region. The political editor of JANA commented saying:

These dangerous operations carried out by Israeli Air Force in the Gulf region means that this region has come under the control of Israel Air Force totally. After Palestine and Lebanon have come under the domination of the enemy and now through these actions the enemy is controlling these states by hovering over in their skies without any confrontation by these states who have lost their freedom and independence.

MOROCCO

Tazi Meets With Soviet, Bulgarian Envoys Nov 2

LD021301 Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Rabat, Nov 2. (MAP) — The situation prevailing in the Middle East and particularly in Lebanon was at the center of talks here Tuesday between Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhaq Tazi and the Ambassador of the Soviet Union to Rabat Yevgeniy Nersesov. During the meeting, the Soviet diplomat informed Mr Tazi about his country's stance regarding the presence of the Multinational Force in Lebanon. On Tuesday morning, Mr Tazi had met with the Bulgarian Ambassador to Morocco Metodi Popov who handed him the full text of the communique released by the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact member countries at the end of their meeting last October 14. The communique is related to arms race and to the initiatives taken by the member countries of the Warsaw Pact to reduce the acuity of the race and prevent a nuclear war.

SUDAN

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Grenada

JN021606 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA) — Sudan has stressed its support for all efforts which seek to establish peace and stability in Central America and in the Caribbean Basin. In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today, Sudan appealed to all the parties concerned to refrain from interfering in the domestic affairs of Grenada and to remove Grenada from the arena of international struggle and polarization. The statement added that Sudan closely follows the political developments in Latin America and the Caribbean Basin and the efforts that seek to establish stability in these two regions from the premise of its firm belief in UN principles and international conventions calling for settling disputes through dialogue and peaceful means.

The statement added that recent developments in the Caribbean indicate a dangerous turning point in view of the USSR's presence in Grenada and Cuban interference in its domestic affairs; a matter which brought about tragic events, caused the death of its prime minister, and spread confusion on the island. This also made the United States interfere militarily on the island. This interference by the superpowers dragged the island into the disputes of the big powers. The statement said that out of its belief in and full commitment to the UN Charter and the principles of international law, and from the premise of its constant policy which opposes any interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, Sudan appeals to all the parties concerned to refrain from interfering in Grenada's domestic affairs and to remove Grenada from the arena of international struggle and polarization. Sudan also calls for preparing a suitable atmosphere to enable the inhabitants of the island to determine for themselves the kind political regime they want removed from any foreign interference.

Egypt's Ghali Arrives in Khartoum 2 Nov

JN021225 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived here at dawn today to participate in the meetings of the Sudanese, Egyptian, Ugandan, Zairian, and Central African foreign ministers to be held here today. These meetings are in harmony with these states' common desire to strengthen the ties of friendship and common cooperation in all fields. The meetings which will begin today and end next Friday comply with Sudan's initiative to achieve the OAU's objectives calling for strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation among the African states. During these meetings, talks will be held on various bilateral, regional, and international issues of common interest.

Meets With Senegal's Senghor

NC022148 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said during his meeting this afternoon with Leopold Senghor, former Senegalese president and chairman of the African Socialist League, they discussed Senghor's visit to Cairo in January and that Senghor promised to deliver a lecture on Egypt's role in the African Continent. He said he also reviewed with President Senghor the special relations between the African French-speaking states and socialist states. He said President Senghor expressed the hope that the NDP would join the socialist movement in the African Continent, especially because Egypt is in the forefront of the states which participated 8 years ago in drafting the Constitution of the League of African Socialist Parties. Dr Ghali added that the meeting was very positive. He said President Senghor asked him to convey his greetings to President Husni Mubarak and to congratulate him on Egypt's success in the UN Security Council elections, viewing this success as a diplomatic victory for the African Continent.

SSU Party, Tunisian DSP Hold Round of Talks

JN022021 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA) — A round of talks between the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU] led by Badr ad-Din Sulayman, first secretary of the SSU Central Command, and the Tunisian Destourian Socialist Party [DSP] led by Al-Manji al-Ka'li, DSP secretary general, was held here today. The two sides agreed on several topics which will be included in the statement that will be issued this evening.

Sulayman praised the cooperation between the two political organizations which was strengthened during President Numayri's visit to Tunis in 1975 and after concluding the protocol of political cooperation between the two organizations.

He reviewed Sudan's political and historical development with particular concentration on the political, economic, and social issues. He pointed out the effect of the various cultural, environmental, humanitarian, and social structure elements on the principles of the political organization."

He expressed the SSU desire to support and develop the relations between the two political and popular organizations. Al-Ka'li expressed pride and appreciation for the strong relations between the two peoples and presidents which is reflected in the sincere cooperation between the two political organizations. He affirmed that the relations between tht two countries remained continously good and developing, even when the situation in the region deteriorated.

He invited the SSU to participate in the celebrations which Tunisia will hold next year on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the DSP.

597 Create Disturbance at Omdurman Prison

LD292009 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Oct 83

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Oct (SUNA) — 597 detainees in Omdurman Prison have rebelled against their guards and created disturbances that led to the intervention of a company from the Central Reserve Police. The prisoners in the prison's inside yardbegan to destroy their canopy in the inside prison yard, damage electrical connections and water pipes, and pelt their guards with stones. None of the guards or mutineers was injured and none of the prisoners was able to escape, although they managed to open a hole in the prison's eastern wall and to surround the Reserve Police in the prison.

Immediately after the incident, Sadr Mustafa, the judge of Omdurman Province, headed for the prison and asked the prisoners to be quiet and to refrain from creating disturbances. He assured them that the courts will soon look into their cases.

On the other hand, Shaykh Siddiq 'Abd al-Hay, head of the judicial organ of the national capital said that he had ordered that he immediately be provided with a list of the prisoners' names and their cases in order to take the necessary measures and look into their cases.

He also affirmed that he would entrust a sufficient number of judges to look into these cases as soon as possible. It is noteworthy that Omdurman Prison, which is considered a reception prison for Khartoum Province, has 795 detainees on charges of premeditated killing, manslaughter, and suspicion. Some of them have been imprisoned for more than 3 years.

It also contains 243 men and women who were sentenced following the president of the republic's decision to release those who had been sentenced. They did not participate in the disturbances this morning.

TUNISIA

Prime Minister Mzali Interviewed on Libya, Chad

LD221811 Paris International Service in French 1500 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Interview with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali on "Press Club" program by moderator Alain de Chalvon and correspondents Mireille Duteil, *Le Point*; Joseph Garcon, *Liberation*; (Sayeh Bekacsemi), *Jeune Afrique*; (Henri Didonati), FR-3 television; Jean-Marc Calefleche, *Le Quotidien de Paris*; (Mohamed Bedeb), Tunisian Radio and Tv; and Yves Moati, Radio France Internationale — live in Council of Ministers chambers]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the past Libya has tried to destabilize Tunisia. But now we have seen that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has been to visit Tunisia several times, three or four times, and we have seen that you have also stepped up your commercial relations. So my question is: How and why have you made friends with Libya?

[Mzali] Well you know, there are always ups and downs and misunderstandings between neighbors. We haven't had the three wars, the great wars you have had with Germany — fortunately for us. We haven't had that. We have had problems. We are brothers. That is a fact, and Europe must know it. We are Arab countries, we are Muslim countries, we are neighbors. There are family links between Libyans and Tunisians, as there are between Tunisians and Algerians. That is a fact. Okay, there have been problems, and thanks to wisdom from both sides, and with patience we have managed to dress the wounds, get rid of misunderstandings, and while we wait for complete agreement in the political field, we wonder why we shouldn't embark on and develop cultural, educational, and especially economic and commercial cooperation, and, thanks be to God, it is working.

And the more the Libyan and Tunisian leaders know and see each other, the less misunderstanding there is. I don't support the mentality (?that gets annoyed). If you get annoyed everyone goes off into his own corner, and then what? Today and for 5 centuries the Tunisians and Libyans will be together. Lots of armchair strategists make a mistake when they gamble on the historic rupture and (?dark trifles) between Libya and Tunisia.

[Correspondent] Do you think Col al-Qadhdhafi is actually sincere when he comes to Tunis?

[Mzali] Do yourself know a lot of sincere politicians? Politics is dossiers, it is problems, it is solutions, isn't it? It is a continual solution. I don't know...

[Correspondent] Do you trust him?

[Mzali] Well, objectively, yes. Objectively, yes, of course. Now we are putting the final touches to the creation of a Tunisian-Libyan bank. We also have an agreement for Libya to take part in the construction of a new power line between the frontier and [word indistinct]

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, we are talking about Col al-Qadhdhafi and Col al-Qadhdhafi is involved in an important conflict in Africa, that of Chad. France is also involved in this conflict as there are French soldiers in Chad. What is Tunisia's stand in this area?

[Mzali] Our stand is clear and we defined it in the joint communique which followed the official visit of Col al-Qadhdhafi in mid-July 1983 at Skanes in Tunisia. The stand was clear. It is enough to refer oneself to the joint communique, and this communique was prepared even before Col al-Qadhdhafi's arrival. This shows that we can be on friendly terms and we can express nuances on this or that problem. Our position, is that first, we are attached to the unity of Chad, second, we are attached to a reconciliation which must be worked out under the aegis of the OAU and in agreement with OAU motions.

[Correspondent] And French intervention, for example, do you think it is right or do you condemn it?

[Mzali] I think there is an agreement between Chad and France and it is within this agreement that France sent troops, but thank God, they have not had the opportunity yet, they have not needed to intervene and I hope, personally, as a member of the Maghreb and as an African, I hope that all foreign troops will leave Chad on the basis of national unity and the territorial integrity of Chad...

[Correspondent] Let us imagine, heaven forbid, that Tunisia is attacked, like Chad has been. Do you hope that France would come to your rescue too?

[Mzali] We are doing everything possible to prevent any foreign intervention in Tunisia. We think that our national unity is the best guarantee and the condition of our invulnerability. The problem of Chad, as that of other African or Arab countries, is that there is no national unity [words indistinct] and this or that faction is forced to call on other foreign countries. This is why we often talk of national unity in Tunisia.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Defense Official

LD022356 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Yesterday evening Beji Caid es-Sebsi, Tunisian foreign minister, met with Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of state for defense, who said they discussed a number of the topical issues of interest to the region and the world. He pointed out that the views of both sides were identical on matters discussed. He said he affirmed to the Tunisian foreign minister the United States' commitment to protection of peace and stability in the region and world. He also thanked the foreign minister for theTunisian Government's support for the peace efforts. Richard Armitage concluded by saying: I hope the contacts we will hold in Tunisia during my visit will bolster the mutual respect and friendship between both our countries.

WESTERN SAHARA

Resolution on Ceasefire Set Before UN

LD021127 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] New York, 2-11-83 (APS) — The Western Sahara question will be shortly examined by the 4th commission of the 38th UN General Assembly. For many days, projects and computer-projects relating to this question are circulating at the level of delegations. In the Western Sahara a calm optimism is prevailing, and for them, there is no doubt that their concerns will be scene" on which the 4th session debates will this session intervenes after Addis Ababa 10th summit results which he estimated, "repair a position of disequilibrium between the OAU and the UN on the Western Sahara question. [sentence as received] Mr Hakim considers that Africa, after the 19th summit clarified its position and "met then the advanced position which was till now the UN position, notably when it defines the two parties in conflict and appeals to direct negotiations."

The draft of resolution initiated by the Western Sahara delegation and which has collected more than 30 signatures of the co-authors countries "which is a progress as to last year at the same period," it is noted asks the General Assembly "to accept the resolution on Western Sahara, unanimously adopted by the OAU of state and government during their 19th summit conference held in Addis Ababa from 6 to 12 June 1983."

The same resolution "exhorts, in this context, like the OAU parties in conflict, i.e., the Morocco's Kingdom and the Polisario Front, to undertake direct negotiations so as to reach a cease fire aiming at setting the necessary conditions for a just and peaceful referendum for Western Sahara people's self- determination a referendum without any administrative or military constraint, under OAU and UN auspices and asks the OAU implementing committee to see to the respect of the cease-fire." Asked about Moroccan transactions behind the scenes destined at thwarting the Western Sahara project, Mr Ibrahim Hakim stated that they are not aiming at shaking the African conviction. For the Western Sahara minister, Morocco has no choice "either it submits to Africa's verdict, or it continues its rebellion and then increases its isolation." Finally, SDAR [Saharan African Democratic Republic] foreign minister put Western powers on their guard against "temptations of direct interference" in this phase of the conflict in Western Sahara.

CHAD

Bardai: FAN, French Forces Launch Operations

AB021920 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 2 Nov 83

["Important military information"]

[Text] The blackout imposed on the military situation in the country by the French media these past few days is only a bluff. Joint military maneuvers are now being carried out by several foreign aggression forces in the territory under French and Zairian occupation, more precisely in the (?Biltine). In fact, several CAR-French units as well as FAN-Zairian units have launched large-scale operations in the area controlled by National Liberation Army [ANL] commando units under the pretence that they are searching for CAR Generals Bozize and Mbaikoua, who are now in exile in the People's Republic of Benin, according to our permanent correspondent. The Zairian, French, FAN, and CAR troops are actually trying to overcome the ANL commando units. A similar operation was already carried out in February last year.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, 1 November 1983 a FAN patrol unit was intercepted between Oum Chalouba and Kalait by the intrepid ANL fighters. Shooting back at the FAN elements who had shot at their positions, the freedom fighters captured 18 enemy elements, 2 of whom later died of their wounds. A quantity of equipment — vehicles, including (?two armored vehicles), and weapons — was seized by ANL men, whose morale was high while they (?defended) their positions. We will give further details in our subsequent casts.

GUNT Youth Interviewed on Situation in Ndjamena

AB020840 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 31 Oct

[Text] In order to find a lasting solution to this Chadian conflict, in order to avoid war for its own sake, the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] is doing everything for the restoration of peace. But in the opposing camp, regionalism, tribalism, religious differences, extortion, arbitrary arrests, and the massacre of peaceful citizens aggravated by the corruption of young Chadian girls and women have been established into a system of administration by the Ndjamena terrorist clique. The massive arrival of foreign troops from France and Zaire, coupled with the outbreaks of famine and all kinds of epidemics, have helped to sharpen the consciousness of our masses, who for a long time have been deceived by Hissein Habre, the recognized agent of international imperialism.

After the spectacular defection of the three Chadian pilots in the DC-4 aircraft to the GUNT in Brazzaville, other patriots, mostly young people and children, have since joined the ranks of the GUNT, led by Comrade President Goukouni Oueddei. They thereby show their disapproval of the repressive and adventurist policies of the gang leader in Ndjamena. These young men, most of whom has returned to the Chadian capital after the declaration of amnesty by the antinational forces, quickly retraced their steps when they discovered that the so-called amnesty was only a mean trap set by the revanchist clique in order to corner them and take revenge on them. In a Radio Bardai interview, the youth denounced the sinister role played by the Young Terrorist Organization, OJT, a real instrument of repression and blackmail, as well as a veritable Tonton Macoute [terrorizing police] of the Chadian popular masses. Let us listen to one of these young people:

[Begin recording][Unidentified correspondent] You are a college student and you have totally abandoned the ranks of the FAN. Why have you decided the join Goukouni's ranks?

[Unidentified student] Previously, I spent several months in Ndjamena where, at that time, I collaborated with the GUNT. And when the FAN came to Ndjamena, I took refuge in Cotonou. After that, a statement was made asking all the people to return to Ndjamena, giving them every assurance. On our arrival in Ndjamena we discovered that the atmosphere had worsened. We, therefore, created organizations throughout the city.

[Correspondent] An appeal was made to everybody, and you heard this appeal and returned to Ndjamena. But contrary to the appeal and the assurances given you, other things happened.

[Student] Effectively, something else happened.

[Correspondent] What really happened?

[Student] What really happened was that the Organization of Chadian Youth was not what it should be. We thought it would be an organization for all the youth where everyone could express himself freely, but it was not the case, it was all misery.

[Correspondent] In the beginning, the task of the organization was to improve sanitation in the city, to sweep the streets, and so on.

[Student] In the beginning, it was for the cleanliness of the city. The program of the organization has recently changed. It now concentrated on the politicization of the city. That is to say, it is essentially bent on knowing all those who were followers of the GUNT in the past. Today, their concern is to denounce such people.

[Correspondent] How is the OJT organized?

[Student] The OJT is organized in all parts of the city. It is made up of the youth ...cluding girls. They hold meetings every day and discuss FAN and GUNT policies and, for example, those of us who are GUNT followers and refuse to contribute to the success of this organization are suspected to being GUNT agents. Thus, the GUNT also has its followers and we have links and know each other. We visit each other and know that this person is a GUNT follower, but clandestinely.

[Correspondent] Even if it is illegal, can you confirm to us or deny that some young people are recruited into the FAN army from the OJT?

[Student] Yes, I can confirm this to you. The OJT is in a way a FAN militia. It is not a youth organization but a FAN militia group; and for the past few days they have been organized to patrol the town. They are almost everywhere. They are sometimes at the discotheques, and in Pacha Club houses, and at other times they are gathering information. To do this, they often enter into a contract with the president of the OJT. They have conditions to fulfill.

[Correspondent] And how is this contract fulfilled?

[Student] This contract is fulfilled in the form of payment. That is to say, a report is made on each person denounced. When the first report is made, two other reports are awaited. After the second and third reports, the person concerned is taken away from his house. After this the person is no longer seen; if one takes food to him, one is even prevented from seeing him. He is said to be alive. After that he is sent to the FAN documentation. [as heard] And I assure you that the person is imprisoned without even being told the crime he committed.

[Correspondent] What is the payment for?

[Student] The payment is made to OJT members who fulfill a mission. This mission is paid for. They are paid after having done their duty by denouncing a person supporting GUNT policies.

[Correspondent] Are they paid each time they denounce someone?

[Student] Yes, each time someone is denounced, the denouncer is paid 10,000 CFA francs.

[Correspondent] That is to say, peaceful citizens are denounced?

[Student] Actually, the OJT devotes itself to the denunciation of peaceful citizens.

[Correspondent] Are there also OJT committees operating in secondary schools?

[Student] In fact, I do not know if there are committees in secondary schools, but at least I can confirm to you that throughout the city of Ndjamena there are documentation committees at the presidency, at the BCR [expansion unknown], and the National Police Headquarters.

[Correspondent] Do they sometimes fleece the people?

[Student] Yes, they sometimes fleece the people.

[Correspondent] What we do not quite understand is why there were so many OJT members solely in charge of the surveillance of Ndjamena?

[Student] I can say the youth in the OJT do not only have the duty to represent the FAN within the organization, they are also obliged to go out to carry out operations. Some youths have been taken from all the primary and secondary schools as well as from the university and are now undergoing training in Camp 27.

[Correspondent] Are there Israeli trainers?

[Student] Yes, there are Israeli, American, and French trainers.

[Correspondent] We have also learned that some young people have been sent to Zaire. Is this news true?

[Student] The news is really true. Some young people have been sent to France and even to Zaire.

[Correspondent] Did you see any Zairians? And how is the situation?

[Student] The situation is very, very tense.

[Correspondent] How did the population receive the Zairians?

[Student] The people are very, very unhappy about their participation because they know that there are Chadians on the other side and that there are Chadians also on this side. Why should foreign troops be made to support one side to kill other Chadians?

[Correspondent] Did you hold any discussions with the Zairians?

[Student] I did not have the opportunity to converse with any of the Zairians.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Student] [Words indistinct] While supporting the extermination of our people, they must know that our Chadian brothers are fighting for the liberation of the people.

[Correspondent] Do you want to say that the Zairians are participating or contributing to the extermination of our people? Is that what you mean?

[Student] The Zairians are contributing to the extermination of the Chadian people.

[Correspondent] How were you living there as a GUNT follower?

[Student] I experienced a difficult period with the FAN. I never had any freedom.

[Correspondent] Generally, how do the GUNT followers there live?

[Student] As you can see, the GUNT followers are very numerous, so numerous that one cannot even count them. But they are very careful because they live in insecurity and are obliged to follow the FAN politically.

[Correspondent] Do you have a last message to deliver to our friends who are now listening to us?

[Student] I am making this appeal to our brothers who are in the FAN camp in Ndjamena. This is the time for you to join the camp of legality. Your security is assured and [words indistinct]. The time has come for you to leave the FAN. [end recording]

ZAIRE

Presidential Decrees Announce New Government

AB021130 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1045 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 1 Nov (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, president and founder of the MPR, carried out a major reshuffle of the Executive Council on Tuesday resulting in the departure of eight state commissioners of which six are members of the party's Central Committee. As usual, the father of the nation carried out a thorough screening of people and the situation before undertaking his action on Tuesday. In fact, the present difficult economic situation faced by the country demands everyone's continued attention in the implementation of measures adopted to solve the economic crisis. In this regard, some changes in the structures as well as in the personnel charged with administrating them are sometimes necessary in order to maximize the chances of succeeding in carrying out of the ambitious economic revival program.

Thus, on his return from Gbadolite where a church service was conducted on 22 October in memory of [words indistinct] Mrs Mobutu, the president retreated to the historical city of Nsele for 7 days to put together his thoughts without any disturbance from city distractions. The new team is a result of the observations and reflections of the MPR's president and founder. Its major task will be to carry out the country's economic and social redress program over the next 15 months. The "outgoing" team, the majority of which are members of the Central Committee, have not been discredited as some might be inclined to believe. It is rather a question of "readaptation" as required by the present difficult times. They will continue to hold other positions in the party.

An important event that should be noted is the integration of three specialized branches of the party within the Executive Council. Thus, the leader has fulfilled the wish expressed by a majority of the Central Committee members. As a result, the Department of Information joins the Department of Mobilization, Propaganda, and Political Rallying. The youth wing of the MPR is now part of the Department of Sports and Leisure. Women's Affairs will now also be charged with Social Affairs. It should also be noted that some departments have been merged while others have been split up. As such, the Department of Higher Education and University Education absorbs that of Scientific Research. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development no longer includes that of Environment and Preservation of Nature. These have now been merged with the Department of Tourism.

Here are those who have left the Executive Council:

1. Munongo Msiri — Territorial Administration
2. Kande Dzambulate — Information, Culture, and Arts
3. Inonga Lokongo Lome — Transport and Communications
4. Makinda Wata Wata — Primary and Secondary Education
5. Yoka Mangono — Land Affairs
6. Maatu Nkumu — Social Affairs
7. Kamitatu Massamba — Agriculture and Rural Development
8. Tshobo — Sports and Leisure

It must be noted that the first six mentioned are members of the MPR Central Committee.

Seven state commissioners have changed posts. Mozagba Nguka now goes to the Department of Territorial Administration and leaves the Justice Department for Kamanda wa Kamanda. Pay-Pay wa Syakasige moves to the Department of Economy, Industry, and Commerce, while his former post goes to Kiakwama Kia Kiziki, until now the managing director of the National Insurance Company. Nyembo Shabani now heads the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Sampassa Kaweta Milombe joins the Youth of the Popular Movement of the Revolution [JMPR] again in a department which will include sports and leisure. Namwisi ma Nkoy heads Finance and Budget while Ngole Iliki moves to the Department of Planning.

Among those who have been promoted, two personalities are returning to their former departments: Umba-di-lutete to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Sakombi Inongo to the Department of Information, Mobilization, Propaganda, and Political Rallying. It is the same for Kiakwama, current commissioner for state investments.

Three secretaries of state are upgraded to heads of departments:

1. Mwamba Mduba — Transport and Communications
2. Mzege Afiaziambana — Primary and Secondary Education
3. Masegabio Nzangu — Culture and Arts

It should be pointed out that a second secretary of state for mobilization, propaganda, and political rallying will be named on Saturday. The founding chairman of the MPR is still considering the appointment.

Here is the complete text of the presidential ordinances:

Ordinance No 83-187 of 1 November 1983 on the appointment of the members of the Executive Council:

The founding chairman of the MPR, president of the republic, in accordance with the Constitution, especially Articles 36, 42, 45, and 99, decrees:

Article 1: The duties of state commissioner for national defense, territorial security, and war veterans will be performed by the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic.

Article 2: First State Commissioner — Citizen Kendo wa Dondo

Article 3: The following are appointed state commissioners of the designated departments:

1. Territorial Administration — Citizen Mozagba Mgbuka
2. Foreign Affairs and Cooperation — Citizen Umba Di Lutete
3. Justice — Citizen Kamanda Wa Kamanda

4. Information, Mobilization, Propaganda, and Political Rallying — Citizen Sakombi Inongo
5. Finance and Budget — Citizen Namwisi Makoyi
6. Planning — Citizen Ngole Iliki
7. Agriculture and Rural Development — Citizen Nyembo Shabani
8. Economy, Industry, and External Trade — Citizen Pay-Pay wa Syakasige
9. State Investment — Citizen Kiakwama Kia Kiziki
10. Mines and Energy — Citizen Umba Kyamitala
11. Public Works and Territorial Development — Citizen Bokana Wondangela
12. Transports and Communications — Citizen Mwamba Nduba
13. Land Affairs — Citizen Unen Can
14. Higher Education, University, and Scientific Research — Citizen Bayona Ba Meya
15. Primary and Secondary School — Citizen Nzege Aliaziambina
16. Culture and Arts — Citizen Masegabio Nzanzu
17. Public Health — Dr Tshibasu Mubiay
18. Women and Social Affairs — Citizen Ekila Liyonda
19. Civil Service — Citizen Kilolo Musamba Lubemba
20. Labor and Social Security — Citizen Kande Buloba Kasumpata
21. Posts and Telecommunications — Citizen Mukuku Wetonda
22. Environment, Preservation of Nature, and Tourism — Citizen Ndjoli Balanga
23. JMPR, Sports, and Leisure — Citizen Sampasa Kaweta Milombe

Article 4: All former statutes that are contrary to this present ordinance are abrogated.

Article 5: The present ordinance takes effect on the date of its signing.

Issued in Kinshasa, 1 November 1983

[Signed] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga

Ordinance No 83-188 of 1 November 1983 on the appointment of state for the departments:

The founding chairman of the MPR, president of the republic, in accordance with the Constitution, with special reference to Articles 36, 42, and 45, in accordance with the law No 81-003 of 17 July 1981 on the status of officials of state public services, in accordance with Ordinance No 73-216 of 25 July 1973 which determines the organization and organic framework of state public services including the services of national education, the adminstrative services of the legislative council, and the judiciary services, decrees:

Article 1: The following have been appointed secretaries of state:

National Defense — Vice Admiral Lomponda wa Botende
Veterans Affairs — Lieutenant General Dikuta Ebilansang Kambing
Territorial Administration — Citizen Mbumba Ngimbi
Foreign Affairs — Citizen Kimasi Matuiku
International Cooperation — Citizen Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga
Justice — Citizen Phanzu Levo
Information — Citizen Dongo Badjanga Esek'sobala
Finance — Citizen Buhendwa Bua Mushaba
Budget — Citizen Tshibambe Kabamba
Planning — Citizen Bossekota W'atshia
Agriculture and Rural Development — Citizen Mokonda Bonza
Economy and Industry — Citizen Mbatshi Batsha
External Trade — Donge Dia Vanga
State Investments — Citizen Ilunga Ilukamba
Mines and Energy — Citizen Pendje Demodetdo Yako
Public Works and Territorial Administration — Citizen Kibangula Kia Makonga
Transport and Communications — Citizen Bongo Lega
Land Affairs — Citizen Mbamba Ganga
Higher and University Education Scientific Research — Citizen Bogwo Makeli
Primary Education — Citizen Samba Kaputo
Secondary Education — Citizen Matukanga Mbalu
Civil Service — Citizen Nkoinzale Eyofundja
Labor and Social Security — Citizen Kisokele Wamba
Environment, Preservation of Nature, and Tourism — Citizen Faka Pauni Zebo

Article 2: All former statutes that are contrary to this present statute, which becomes effective on the date of its signing, are hereby abrogated.

Issued in Kinshasa, 1 November 1983

[Signed] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga

Ordinance No 83-189 of 1 November 1983 repealing Ordinance No 82-175 of 5 November 1982 on the creation of a general commissionership for sports and leisure:

The president and founder of the MPR and president of the republic, in view of the Constitution, especially Articles 36 and 42, decrees:

Article 1: The repeal of Ordinance No 82-175 of 5 November 1982 on the creation general commissionership for sports and leisure.

Article 2: The present ordinance comes into effect on the date of its signature.

Issued in Kinshasa, 1 November 1983

[Signed] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga

Ordinance No 83-190 of 1 November 1983 repealing Ordinance No 83-084 of 18 March 1983 on the creation of a general commissionership for tourism.

The president and founder of the MPR and president of the republic, in view of the Constitution, especially Articles 36 and 42, decrees

Article 1: The repeal of Ordinance No 83-084 of 18 March 1983 on the creation of a general commissionership for tourism.

Article 2: The present ordinance comes into effect on the date of its signature.

Issued in Kinshasa on 1 November 1983

[Signed] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga

GHANA

Government Statement on U.S. Actions in Grenada

AB030815 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 3 Nov 83

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council has issued a statement on the U.S.-led invasion of the Caribbean island of Grenada. It says now that the circumstances surrounding the invasion of Grenada have been fully explained, the Ghana Government is unable to appreciate the justification for the invasion. The statement says, the principles of international law which are embodied in the Charter of the UN and that of the OAS forbid all states from the use and threat of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states, and further prohibit all states from interference in the internal affairs of others.

The statement notes that those states contributing to the invasion force are party to these treaties and are obliged to respect their provisions. Even the little known Charter of the Organization of East Caribbean States, on which their invasion relies, does not justify the action taken. While that charter provided for collective self defense in the face of external aggression against a member state, it does not legalize aggression by any group of states against a member. Such a provision is not permissible in the light of the clear injunctions of the Charter of the UN.

Furthermore, those countries contributing to the invasion force are not parties to the Charter of the Organization of East Caribbean States. The statement says the claims that the invasion was occasioned by the invitation of the governor general of Grenada presupposes that the governor general has such power, which clearly he has not. A governor general can only act on the advice of the government in power. The statement says it is quite clear that the invasion of Grenada was undertaken in the global strategic interests of a superpower and for geopolitical considerations. The Government of Ghana cannot accept that this is a valid reason for interference in the internal affairs of a member state of the international community. Ghana, like all other less powerful countries, has an interest in decrying such abuse of power and calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Grenada. The people of Grenada, the statement adds, are entitled to determine, free of external interference, the system of government they like.

Culture Secretary Says U.S. Marines Unwelcome

AB021515 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The address by the secretary for culture and tourism, Mr Asiedu Yerenkyi, at the 10th anniversary of the Ghana-America Friendship Association was given prominence by the *Ghanaian Times* on its front page. The secretary is reported to have said that in as much as no Ghanaian would like to have any American involved in any internal dispute, he would not wish to see any American Marines running on our soil, ostensibly to rescue an American. Describing the U.S. invasion of Grenada as unfortunate, Mr Asiedu Yerenkyi said Ghanaians believe that true friendship should be determined by mutual respect, equality of status, and respect for human dignity, and not ideological affiliations.

Dissident Seamen Ordered To Leave NUS Office

AB022045 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] The government has directed all dissident seamen currently occupying the offices of the National Union of Seamen, NUS, to quit the premises of the Trade Union Congress Hall with immediate effect or face prosecution.

A statement by the Ministry of Labor said although the dissident faction may have genuine grievances against the present leadership of the union, their action in violently breaking into its offices on 27 October is clearly unlawful and a total disregard for right procedure and order. The government made it clear that it intends to stop once and for all these acts of indiscipline and disorder where groups of people decide to take the law into their own hands. As a result, the following persons are to report to the Operations Room of the Gonda Barracks with immediate effect to be arraigned before the public tribunal. They are Rexford Kwabla, Seth Amposah, S.A. Mensah, and Otoo, alias Free Body. The statement advises that all complaints about the leadership of the NUS may be lodged with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare for redress.

EEC Commissioner Comments on Aid to Country

AB021930 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] The EEC commissioner for development and Third World relations, Edgar Pizani, said in Accra this afternoon that the government's 3-year rehabilitation and recovery program is the only way to rebuild the country. Mr Pisani, who arrived in the country yesterday on a 2-day visit, said he has already held discussions with the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, and three separate meetings with the secretaries for finance and economic planning, foreign affairs, and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The EEC commissioner, who was addressing a news conference, said the European Community is ready to support the government's recovery program as largely as it can. He announced that the EEC is going to reshuffle the indicative program drawn for Ghana under the EEC-African, Pacific, and Caribbean countries' 5-year development program to make it more efficient and beneficial to the country. The EEC will also reappraise the nation's requirements in food aid by taking into account 3 successive years of drought in the country. He promised that the food aid will be larger than those in previous years. Mr Pisani described the handling of food aid by the government as very good, and said Ghana is the wisest country in this field and we are happy with the way you use food aid for developing agriculture.

Touching on the country's economic situation, Mr Pisani said Ghana is not comparable to other developing countries because it has a good infrastructure and the industrial machinery base together with natural resources which are good for agricultural production. Mr Pisani said the community will try to convince other donor countries at a donors conference on Ghana in Paris this month to help the government in its recovery program.

EEC experts will also arrive in the country next year to hold further discussions with the government on agriculture. And the community will further provide spare parts and agricultural machinery to help in the rehabilitation of the transport sector.

LIBERIA

Foreign Minister Takes Message to Sierra Leone

AB012210 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 1 Nov 83

[Text] Foreign Minister T. Ernest Eastman has delivered two messages to Sierra Leone President Dr Siaka Stevens at State House in Freetown from the head of state Chairman Samuel Kanyon Doe.

The foreign minister, who left Monrovia this morning, was met on arrival by his Sierra Leonian counterpart, Dr Abdulai Conteh, at (Histen's) Airport outside Freetown, along with the doyen of the diplomatic corps in Freetown, Liberia's ambassador to Sierra Leone, Dr Joseph Morris, and the deputy permanent secretary at the Foreign Ministry, among others.

A source close to the meeting between the Sierra Leone president and the Liberian foreign minister said Dr Stevens was very receptive to the messages of Dr Doe. Even though the contents of the messages were not made public, they were believed to center on the discussions aimed at a better future for Liberia and Sierra Leone and the Mano River Union.

The source also told the LIBERIA NEWS AGENCY [LINA] that President Stevens, in his ardent desire to make the union very viable, promised to designate a high-level officer at Mano River Bridge in the person of an assistant commissioner of police to coordinate the affairs in that area with his Liberian counterpart to ensure peace, harmony, concord, and cordiality in the movement of citizens of the union.

Meanwhile, Dr Stevens has expressed satisfaction to Foreign Minister Eastman for a well-planned program held in Liberia that marked the celebration of the third anniversary of the founding of the union and expressed thanks to Dr Doe for the reception accorded him and his party. Dr Stevens asked Minister Eastman to convey to Dr Doe that he would send a more formal reply to his messages as soon as he personally makes certain inquiries.

The minister of foreign affairs was accompanied to Freetown by the Sierra Leone ambassador to Liberia, Dr Syphalus Havel. Accompanying the foreign minister were assistant minister of foreign affairs for Afro-Asian affairs, William Boo; and the director general of LINA, Edward Davies, Jr.

NIGERIA

New Bulgarian Envoy Calls on Ekwueme

AB022030 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] The vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, has expressed the hope that the very cordial relations and bilateral cooperation existing between Nigeria and the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the economic, technical, and scientific fields will continue to be strengthened in the years ahead. The vice president made the remark today when he received the new Bulgarian ambassador to Nigeria, Mr (Dimitrov Alev), in audience at State House, Ribadu Road, Lagos. Dr Ekwueme recalled that the former ambassador, Mr A.K. Atanasov, worked hard to strengthen relations between the two countries and hoped that the new Bulgarian ambassador would improve on the performance of his predecessor in office. The ambassador, who had served as his country's principal representative to Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Upper Volta, pledged to do his best to promote friendly relations between both countries.

Establishment of Islamic Affairs Board Denied

AB011910 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Nov 83

[Text] The federal government has refuted reports of the alleged establishment of a Board of Islamic Affairs in the Executive Office of the president. In a statement in Lagos today, the federal government explained that following the last religious riots in Maiduguri, Kano, and Kaduna in 1982, the Council of State mandated President Shehu Shagari to create a unit on his office to deal specifically with the implementation of the Aniagbolu Commission of Enquiry on the Maitatsin riots. The statement pointed out that what the president did was to appoint a special assistant on special duties to handle the issue.

It recalled that the vice president, while receiving representatives of the Christian Association in July this year, explained the rationale for appointing a special assistant on special duties. During the meeting, it further said, the Christian Association was requested to submit the name of a suitable Christian who could be appointed by the president to handle affairs of the Christian community. The federal government pledged not to do anything to infringe on the constitutional provisions as regards religious.

SIERRA LEONE

Lecturers Threaten To Continue Strike at College

AB021550 Paris AFP in English 1517 GMT 2 Nov 83

[Text] Freetown, Nov 2 (AFP) — Lecturers at Fourah Bay College today threatened to continue a two-day strike in protest against student violence and attacks on staff last week. The lecturers went on strike on Monday and yesterday after Vice-Chancellor Arthur Porter and College Principal Eldred Jones had been forced last Wednesday to eat cakes and powdered milk

that had been rejected by students in the refectory. The students, who were complaining about poor conditions at the college, then forced the two men to walk two miles into the centre of Freetown to present their case to Sierra Leone President Siaka Stevens, who is also college chancellor. The lecturers today said that they would strike again if the leaders of the student action were not punished. In a statement yesterday, the 150 lecturers had condemned the students for "physically assaulting" a number of staff members during their protests on Wednesday. At a meeting with staff earlier this week, leaders of the 1,661 students had expressed "regret" over the refectory incident, but Mr Jones said today that the apologies were not enough.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Signs Decree Granting Amnesty to Soldiers

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[Text] On the occasion of the 22d anniversary of the creation of the National Army, the head of state has signed a decree granting amnesty to soldiers of all grades serving disciplinary sanctions between 1 November 1982 and 1 November 1983. The chairman of the National Revolutionary Council and head of state decrees: Article 1. Amnesty is granted on the occasion of the 22d anniversary of the National Army to the following categories of offenses committed by soldiers of all grades between 1 November 1982 and 1 November 1983.

First category: irregular absence [no second category as heard]

Third category: fighting, indecent acts.

Fourth category: violation of rules, lateness and failure to accomplish duties on time; violation of punishment orders; violation of health and hygiene rules.

Fifth category: professional mistakes and negligence.

Sixth category: faulty dress and behavior.

Article 2: The minister of national defense and veterans' affairs is charged with implementing the present decree, which will be published in the official gazette of the republic.

National Defense Minister on New Role of Army

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[Speech by Major Jean-Baptiste Lingani, minister of national defense and veterans' affairs, on 1 November 1983 in Ouagadougou to mark the 22d anniversary of the creation of the National Revolutionary Army of Upper Volta — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin Lingani recording] Though I would not like to give the usual monotonous, insipid, and demagogic report on the Army, what is there for me to say about an Army whose major characteristics were for 22 years the following: a neocolonial, repressive, and unpopular Army? The event we are celebrating today is — since the historic date of 4 August 1983 — the birth of a rehabilitated National Army.

Fellow militants of the Upper Voltan revolution, here then are a few words. The National Armed Forces and the progressive civilian forces have started the revolutionary procedure on behalf of the entire Upper Voltan people. Since 4 August 1983, spurred by the steadfast desire to rehabilitate and restore the prestige of our people who had until then been torn apart, exploited, and weakened through internal struggles organized and fanned by local political, bureaucratic, and militant reactionaries supported by financial powers and international imperialism, our military and civilian patriots have decided, with full knowledge of the consequences, to put an end to the situation of national indignity and shame into which the neocolonial and treacherous regimes have plunged Upper Volta.

By taking up this historic responsibility, the National Armed Forces deliberately committed themselves to serving the Upper Voltan people faithfully and loyally, to defending their basic interests at all costs, and to victoriously pursuing their revolutionary march with discipline, dignity, and with honor together with the popular masses mobilized to uphold the objectives of the National Council of the Revolution and of the orientation speech of 12 October 1983.

In this light, it is appropriate to recall the three essential missions the National Armed Forces are charged with in the national revolution. First, it must be prepared to fight any internal and external enemy and to participate in the military training of the people, which means increased operational capacity, making each soldier a competent fighter, instead of being like the former Army which consisted merely of salaried workers. To achieve this, the operational capacity of our Armed Forces will have to be attained through the valorization of technical and tactical instruction and training at all levels and in all fields, keeping in mind the need for efficiency and profitability through a rational and functional policy of equipment, and so will the constant development and raising of the quality of the moral strengths which are always the last ramparts of the soldier, the sense of revolutionary discipline and honor, willpower, courage, self-denial, self-control, faith, belief, etc.

The efficiency of credible defense depends on an armed people and the Upper Voltan people must ensure their own defense. The Army will participate in their military training. To this effect, the various provinces will receive military detachments soon which will be in charge of the military instruction and training of the people. This way, when the enemies of the people dare to attack tomorrow, they will no longer face the retaliation of the Army but that of an entire people. The people will be organized within the framework of the Operational Defense of the Territory, DOT.

Secondly, the Army must participate in national production. In fact, the new soldier must live and suffer with the people he belongs to. The parasitic Army no longer exists. Henceforth, in addition to handling weapons, the soldiers will go to the fields and raise cattle, sheep, and fowls; they will build schools and health centers which they will run; they will maintain roads and carry letters, invalids, and food products by air between the

regions. In this way the Armed Forces, in the framework of the integration of the Army with the people, will destroy the neocolonial and anti-progressive taboos linked to the military function that tend to ban manual and agricultural labor.

It is opportune to announce the imminent holding of an interministerial seminar charged with defining the practical and functional modalities of the Army's commitment to the task of production. The professional training of the soldier will be the normal outcome.

Third, each soldier must train to become a revolutionary militant. The days when we claimed the reality of the neutrality and apolitical nature of the Army by making it the rampart of reactionaries and the guarantor of selfish and imperialist interests have ended.

The time when our National Army behaved like a body of foreign mercenaries in conquered territory is over. Armed with political and ideological training, the soldiers, warrant officers, and officers, who are engaged in the revolutionary procedure, will cease to be potential criminals and become conscious revolutionaries living with the people like a fish in water. [as heard]

But what are the concrete tasks that this new conception imposes on us?

At all levels, in all barracks, debates, information sessions on political sensitization and mobilization enabling each soldier to raise his level of political awareness, to understand the daily struggle of the people he belongs to, to fight political obscurantism, to understand that civilians and soldiers are fighting the same war and that there is no wall between them, to understand and fight the intrigues and base maneuvers of reaction and imperialism, will be organized.

Each soldier will therefore attend the revolutionary school.

The creation of Revolutionary Defense Councils in the Army will be the appropriate framework for this political training of the soldier in a National Popular Army which should always derive its strength from firm cohesion and healthy and strict discipline, revolutionary discipline.

Finally, the drawing up of new programs of instruction and training in the Army should take the new political data into account at all levels. Comrade officers, warrant officers, gendarmes, and privates, henceforth, each soldier must consider himself a militant of the democratic and popular revolution and follow seriously the general guidelines of the orientation speech of 12 October 1983.

It is a duty for each militant in uniform. Consequently, each militant has the duty to struggle reslutely and honestly on the side of the National Armed Forces to bring the new structures to fruition and to bring to fruition the new missions that must finally turn our present colonial and neocolonial Army into a true revolutionary and popular Army in the service of the people.

Through unity and mobilization, we shall overcome! [end recording]

Upper Voltans in Paris Elect CDR Bureau

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[Telegram addressed to Lieutenant Pierre Ouedraogo, national secretary general of Revolutionary Defense Committees, issued in Ouagadougou on 2 November]

[Text] On Sunday, 23 October 1983, a second general assembly meeting of Upper Voltan workers and students resident in Paris was held at the Upper Voltan Embassy in Paris. The two assemblies were aimed at responding to President Thomas Sankara's call of 4 August for the creation of Revolutionary Defense Committees [CDR] in towns, districts, villages, and working places. Here is a statement issued by the workers and students at the end of their meeting:

We Upper Voltans resident in France are also involved in the 4 August 1983 revolution, and we belong to that large majority of Upper Voltans who have adhered to the 4 August revolution. Our first organized revolutionary action was to hold two general assemblies on 9 October and 23 October 1983 and to elect the Paris CDR bureau on 23 October 1983. More than 150 Upper Voltans resident in Paris participated in this election.

WHO Office Says Yellow Fever Kills 257

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[Text] Niamey, Nov 2 (AFP) — A yellow fever epidemic that swept through southeastern Upper Volta has killed 257 people, mostly children under 15, since the end of September, the World Health Organization office in Ouagadougou said today. A WHO spokesman said 320 cases had been reported mainly among the nomad Fulah people, who were generally not vaccinated, adding that the situation was developing "favorably" because the epidemic had been limited to the bush. The spokesman said there were no cases reported in Upper Volta towns and in neighboring countries, and that safety precautions had been taken. The entire population is to be vaccinated against the disease, which last hit Upper Volta between 1968 and 1970, killing several hundred people. The WHO has requested a total two million doses of vaccine for its immediate needs, and has ordered an additional 4.5 million doses to vaccinate the entire population in the next few months. The epidemic is expected to die out at the end of the year, the WHO spokesman said, because the beginning of the dry season next month will dry up water holes and dew, which should drastically reduce the number of mosquitoes that carry the disease.